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State Police investigate shooting, minor injuries to victim, suspect arrested

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Paw Paw post troopers are investigating a shooting where a 33-year-old Paw Paw man was shot and treated at the scene for minor injuries, Tuesday night, June 10, in Antwerp Township, according to a press release from Michigan State Police Paw Paw post.

A 49-year-old Paw Paw man was on charges of assault with intent to murder and felon in possession of a firearm. He was transported to the Van Buren County Jail.

The shooting, which occurred at 8:50 p.m., at 31626 Red Arrow Highway, Antwerp Township, stemmed from a dispute, though details are still under investigation. No other injuries occurred.

Paw Paw and Mattawan police departments assisted at the scene.

The investigation remains ongoing.

Fatal crash claims life of Lawton woman

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

ANTWERP TWP. – A 64-year-old Lawton woman was killed Thursday afternoon, June 12, in a two-vehicle traffic crash in Antwerp Township, according to a press release from the Van Buren County Sheriff's office.

Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott said that at approximately 3:30 p.m., Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a two-vehicle traffic crash at M-40 Highway, near 64th Avenue, Antwerp Township. Upon deputies' arrival, one of the vehicle occupants was found to be unresponsive. She was extricated from the vehicle and life saving measures were attempted. However, the female driver succumbed to her injuries at the scene.

A juvenile passenger in that vehicle was transported to Bronson Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the other vehicle was also transported to Bronson Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

Paw Paw softball falls one win shy of state title

By John Raffel
Correspondent

EAST LANSING — Paw Paw's softball team was hopeful of one more dramatic comeback win when it played Richmond for the Division 3 state championship on June 14 at Michigan State University.

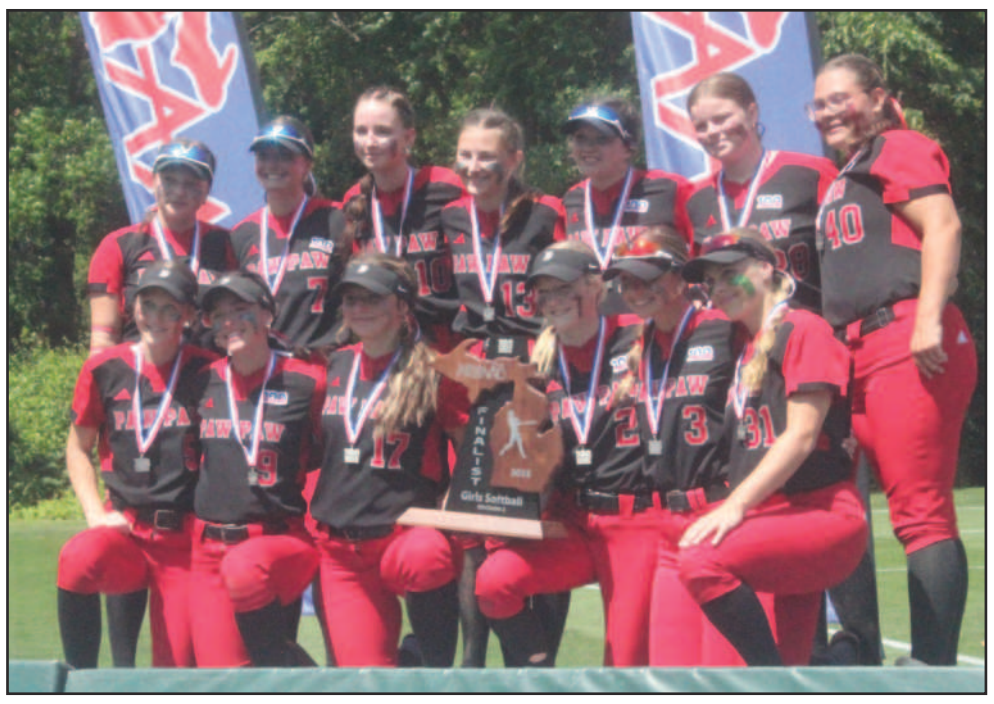
But the Wolves were unable to figure out Richmond pitcher Kate Shuboy and lost 3-0, to end the season at 37-4/

Richmond ended with a 31-7 record and the title trophy.

"I told the girls there was nothing to feel sorry for," Paw Paw coach Mike Mottl said. "We played a good game. Richmond was a great team and had a great pitcher and had a couple of breaks go their way. Nobody expected us to be here. We were only one of two teams left. Everyone else is home."

Adrian Nader singled home a run for Richmond in the first inning for a 1-0 lead. And the Blue Devils would add another run in the inning and one in the bottom the sixth. Richmond had eight hits compared to one for Paw Paw.

The Red Wolves had no errors compared to three for Richmond and Paw Paw center field Shella Shaefer made the catch of the game on a running, leaping stab of a well hit line drive to the fence.



Paw Paw softball players pose with their state runnerup trophy on Saturday.

But it was not enough for Paw Paw with the only hit coming from Bella Clemons.

Shabby allowed one hit and no runs in seven innings, striking out 10 and walking two.

"She was really good at painting the corners and had good command of her fastball," Mottl said. "She also had a nice rise ball that didn't always start high and finish high. She did a phenomenal job. All credit to Richmond."

Lauren MacKeller took the pitching loss for Paw Paw in six innings, allowing three runs and eight hits, striking out six and walking two.

"All we could ask of our girls was to play competitive, play hard and play the right way," Mottl said. "That's exactly what they did and I could not to be prouder."

Shabby, Kendall Nader and Anna McKienam all had two hits apiece for Richmond.

"There's nothing more you could ask for as a coach to have a chance," Mottl said. "The kids worked their tails off. They never let the moment get too big and they never stopped believing."

There's no seniors and Paw Paw returns everyone next season.

"We believe in each other like no other," Shaefer said. "The belief we have in each other goes a long way."

Paw Paw's Mike Mottl accepts the state runner-up trophy on Saturday.

Mroczek named Miss Michigan 4th Runner Up

Lauren Mroczek of Mattawan, Miss Greater Kalamazoo, was named 4th Runner Up to Miss Michigan during the 86th annual Miss Michigan Scholarship Competition on Saturday, June 14, held at the Frauenthal Center in downtown Muskegon. As Miss Greater Kalamazoo, Lauren represents Kalamazoo and Calhoun counties. She was chosen among 22 women and earned $2500 in scholarships.

As part of the competition, contestants participate in five categories: private interview with the judges, on-stage question, lifestyle and fitness, talent and evening gown. Lauren's Talent is a Jazz Dance to "Workin' Day and Night" by Michael Jackson. Her Service Initiative is Feeding Ourselves: The Importance of Fruits and Vegetables, where she works to provide education and to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables, inspiring the regular consumption of fruits and vegetables to lower the risk of developing life-threatening chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Lauren graduated from Mattawan High School and is a 2021 Graduate of Grand Valley State University and the Frederik Meijer Honors College where she studied Biomedical Science with an emphasis in Nutrition Science.

Paw Paw Fire Department battles structure fire

The Paw Paw Fire Department responded to a structure fire Thursday, June 12, shortly after noon. Paw Paw Fire Chief Kyle Richardson said the fire appears to have started from debris removal on the exterior of the residence where the exterior wood started on fire. The fire rapidly got into the chimney chase/walls and extended into the attic. Richardson said firefighters did a great job by containing the fire quickly by gaining quick access into the attic where a hose line was advanced to stop further spread. Holes were also cut in the roof, and a second handline was advanced to the exterior to assist in extinguishment of the blaze. The fire department was assisted by Paw Paw Quick Response, Vân Buren Central Dispatch Van Buren Emergency Medical Services and Michigan State Police. The fire department cleared the scene at 1:30 p.m.

Photos courtesy/Paw Paw Fire Department.

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2ND FRONT PAGE

America's longest running community band will perform at ice cream social

By James Windell

What could be more American than an old-fashioned ice cream social with entertainment by a community band?

And where else is this likely to happen than in South Haven?

But that's exactly where you will find this uniquely American event on Sunday, June 22, 2025, from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. The Casco Community Band, the longest running community band in America, will be playing a free concert and ice cream will be served on the lawn in front of Hartman School, headquarters of the Historical Association of South Haven.

According to the band's Manager, Nadine Stacks, the Casco Community Band was formed in Casco Township in 1928. "The band was started by a music man who came through this area and sold musical instruments," Stacks says. "Two years after he came through Van Buren County selling instruments to the schools, the band started. In the beginning, it was made up mostly of farmers and their kids."

Over the years the band grew in size and today boasts 44 members, including Stacks herself.

Stacks, who plays the oboe, is a retired engineer who worked at the Palisades Nuclear Power Plant and lives in Grand Junction. "I started playing the oboe in the fifth grade and I played in high school and college bands," Stacks says. "When we moved here, I heard at my church that there was this community band and I wanted to go play in it."

She, like several other members of the band, are now retired but remain devoted to the band. When the previous Manager of the band retired from the band, she took over and has been the manager for more than 25 years. However, she points out that while they have octogenarians, like their tuba player, Karl Andrews, who is 89 years old, they also have high school students. "Our two youngest musicians are Ian Maxwell, who plays trumpet, and Porsha Tomsa, a clarinetist, and both are 16 years old," she says. "But we have all ages in the band."

Rick Catherman, who was the South Haven High Band Director at one time, has led the Casco Community Band for the past two years. Stacks attributes the growth of the band to the number of musicians it current has to Catherman, who has wide contacts with musicians as a former music teacher and as a representative of Meyer Music.

"Since he works for Meyer Music," Stacks says, "he visits all the high schools in the area and has the opportunity to tell them about the Casco Community Band."

Year in and year out, band members have gathered once a week for rehearsal. Currently, the band rehearses every Monday night at Peace Lutheran Church in South Haven.

Stacks says it is the music, besides the long history of the band, that makes them unique. "We play anything from marches to music from the movies," she says. "We also play a lot of old-time music that you can sing to – songs that are familiar to everyone."

The concert on Sunday, June 22 will begin at 2:00 pm at the Historical Association of South Haven, Hartman School Building, 355 Hubbard Street, South Haven. The band will also be performing at the 4th of July Parade in South Haven and at the Riverfront Series on Thursday, August 21 at 345 Water Street, beginning at 7:00 pm. The concerts are free and open to the public.

What has kept the band going for 97 years?

"It's about people wanting to play music," Stacks says. "That's what motivates everyone in the band. They love music."

Multiple people injured in Pullman crash

On 6-14-2025 at approximately 11:29 pm, Allegan County Central Dispatch received an iPhone crash notification near the area 56th St and 112th Ave. Pullman Mi Lee Twp. After units arrived, it appeared that the preliminary investigation shows that a SUV was pulling out of a driveway and a NB pickup truck struck the SUV causing it to flip over after striking a tree. There were multiple patients with serious injuries that were transported to multiple hospitals. Speed and alcohol are believed to be a factor. No names are being released at this time as the investigation is still being conducted by the Allegan County Crash Reconstruction Team.

Dredging starts in channel

Emergency dredging at the Lake Michigan channel entrance to the Black River began on Monday. A buildup of sand at the entrance has presented a challenge for sailboats, notably the Friends Good Will tall ship from the Michigan Maritime Museum. The city of South Haven received expedited approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to do the dredging. The dredging is expected to take a week, weather allowing. City officials are hoping to place the dredgings in the area of the South beach.

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Commissioners address state's public behavioral health system funding shortfall

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Commissioners on Tuesday, June 10, went on record to address the funding shortfall currently being experienced by the state's public behavioral health system.

Commissioners said the state's public behavioral system is experiencing a significant and worsening funding shortfall due to several compounding factors including the disenrollment of Medicaid participants, stagnation in core service funding, escalating program and medical inflation costs, and excessive administrative demands from state regulators.

Commissioners further stated the financial pressure has compromised the capacity of local Community Mental Health agencies and Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans to adequately serve individuals with serious mental illnesses, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.

Rates for essential Medicaid services such as inpatient hospitalization, specialized residential, and autism treatment do not currently reflect the true costs of care delivery and must be adjusted accordingly to maintain access and service quality, according to commissioners.

The administrative burden placed on local mental health systems by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) includes requirements that exceed federal mandates, diverting resources away from patient care without measurable improvements in outcomes, according to commissioners.

The disenrollment of eligible individuals from Medicaid without sufficient rate adjustments has further strained the system, leaving agencies to serve disenfranchised populations without corresponding funding.

According to commissioners, MDHHS has failed to release already-appropriated funds, a practice tantamount to the impoundment of resources urgently needed to stabilize services and staffing at the local level.

Timely and appropriate Medicaid bucket assignments are essential to ensuring enrollees receive the right coverage and that funding is properly aligned with service delivery responsibilities, according to commissioners.

Commissioners, in a resolution, urged the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to:

1. Fully allocate appropriate Medicaid behavioral health funds to CMHSPs in fiscal year 2025 and beyond, to support the delivery of comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services to Medicaid beneficiaries in our community.

2. Ensure capitation rates are actuarially sound at the regional and local levels, and reflect the actual cost of service delivery, including inpatient care, specialized residential treatment, and autism services to adequately reflect the cost of providing quality care, thereby supporting comprehensive and essential mental health and substance use disorder services.

3. Account for new cost drivers, including legislative changes such as paid sick leave and minimum wage increases and mandated increases for autism services reimbursement.

4. Significantly reduce unnecessary administrative requirements that increase overhead without improving outcomes.

5. Oppose any reductions in Medicaid funding or services. Any reduction in Medicaid funding, rates, or services disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, exacerbates existing health disparities, and increases the burden on local resources.

The resolution was to be forwarded to Governor Whitmer, the leadership for the Michigan Legislature, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Association of Counties, Senator Aric Nesbitt, Representative Pauline Wendzel and Representative Joey Anderson.

Commissioners approved an opioid settlement RFP process and timeline.

Van Buren County participated in national litigation against opioid manufacturers, distributors, and pharmacies for their role in the opioid crisis and resulting public health impacts. Because of this litigation, Van Buren County is projected to receive nearly $2.8 million in settlement funds over 18 years, beginning in January 2023.

Commissioners previously established an Opioid Settlement Steering Committee to provide leadership and guidance in the planning, development, and oversight of strategies for distributing opioid settlement funds.

Commissioners recognize the importance of including diverse and informed perspectives in the decision-making and oversight of opioid settlement funds, and intend for membership on all opioid-related committees to reflect a broad cross-section of the community, including but not limited to representatives from government, public health, health care providers, public safety, the criminal-legal system, prevention coalitions, harm reduction and recovery support providers, schools and universities, behavioral health and treatment professionals, medical examiners or coroners, individuals with lived experience with substance use, their family and friends, and tribal citizens and governments.

The Steering Committee has developed a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process as the framework for disbursing opioid settlement funds, beginning with a two-year grant cycle totaling $300,000 (approximately $150,000 annually) to help sustain resources over the expected 18-year life of the settlement.

Funding will only be awarded to proposals that meet eligibility criteria and align with the allowable uses under Exhibit E of the national opioid settlement and the priorities identified in the 2024 Van Buren County Community Health Needs Assessment.

1. The Opioid Settlement Steering Committee shall be responsible for reviewing and scoring proposals submitted in response to the County's opioid settlement RFP and shall make funding recommendations to the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, who retain final authority over the approval and distribution of all opioid settlement funds.

2. The Opioid Settlement Steering Committee shall also monitor all funded activities for compliance with program requirements and performance outcomes.

3. The Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following targeted RFP timeline for 2025:

• Beginning of July 2025 – RFP Issued

• Mid-August 2025 – Application Deadline

• End of September 2025 – Grant Awards Announced

Commissioners approved a salary exception for the assistant prosecuting attorney position at Step D-2, $103,718.94, on the Court Association Scale (Level 35), with an anticipated start date of Aug. 4, 2025.

There is a vacant assistant prosecuting attorney (APA) position at the South Haven Office that became available on Jan. 1, 2025, following the election of Emily Jipp as Circuit Court Judge in Allegan County.

The South Haven Office operates with greater independence due to its physical separation from the main Prosecutor's Office in Paw Paw and requires an attorney with the skill, judgment, and experience to independently manage a high-volume caseload with limited supervision.

The Prosecutor's Office conducted a search and received 14 applications, ultimately interviewing the top three candidates, and identified a highly qualified attorney with 20 years of legal experience practicing in Oklahoma and Arkansas, who is currently in the process of obtaining licensure to practice law in the State of Michigan.

The candidate's current salary is $100,000 and, to attract and retain a candidate of this caliber, the Prosecutor's Office requested approval to offer a starting salary of $103,718.94, corresponding to Step D-2 on the Court Association Scale (Level 35), which is consistent with the applicant's professional experience and market comparability.

The posted salary range for this position is $84,565.46 to $117,700.25, but the requested step exceeds the entry-level starting salary and required commissioners' authorization under existing policy.

Commissioners said there is no financial impact on the General Fund in the current fiscal year as $53,000 in salary savings from the vacant position were partially used to fund reclassification adjustments for the remaining APA staff ($26,000), with $27,000 in savings remaining.

The proposed salary exception cost for the remainder of the fiscal year is $23,000, which will be fully absorbed by the existing vacancy-related savings, with future costs incorporated into the FY 2025-2026 budget.

Commissioners authorized the Specialty Courts to submit the FY 2025 grant applications to the State Court Administrative Office in support of the Drug Treatment Court, Family Treatment Court, Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program, Mental Health Court, and Sobriety Court.

Van Buren County's Specialty Courts - comprised of the Drug Treatment Court, Family Treatment Court, Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program, Mental Health Court, and Sobriety Court - seek continued funding through annual grant applications submitted to the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO).

Commissioners said these programs deliver evidence-based interventions designed to promote accountability, reduce recidivism, and enhance public safety and community well-being across the county.

The State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) has allocated targeted award recommendations for Van Buren County totaling $734,543.66 for FY 2025, broken down as follows: Drug Treatment Court - $190,344.13; Family Treatment Court - $76,802.56; Mental Health Court - $185,241.00; Swift and Sure Sanctions Probation Program - $194,560.35; and Sobriety Court MDCGP - $87,596.09.

These awards reflect the state's recognition of Van Buren County's effective implementation of treatment-focused justice programs and its commitment to addressing complex behavioral health and substance use issues within the criminal justice system.

Commissioners said the grant application process is occurring on an expedited timeline due to a delayed release of the FY 2025 materials by SCAO and the need to review and align with new targeted allocation guidelines prior to the June 20 submission deadline.

The county is responsible for temporarily covering program costs, reimbursements are issued quarterly by SCAO, allowing for fiscal continuity and uninterrupted service delivery during the interim.

Commissioners recognize the strategic and social value of these specialty court programs in supporting individual recovery, public health, and justice system efficiency. of 1965 authorizes Michigan counties to create Parks and Recreation Commissions

Commissioners approved the timing to levy a county-wide Parks and Recreation millage and pass a resolution to implement the millage to manage recreation activities and develop park facilities.

Van Buren County established its parks and recreation commission in August 2022. The next essential phase in developing county park and recreation amenities requires funding. Act 90 of 1913 facilitates county commissions to fund parks and recreation through an ad valorem property tax, which must not exceed 1/4 of 1 mill unless approved by county voters.

At the Oct. 10, 2023, meeting of the Van Buren County Parks and Recreation Commission, a motion was unanimously passed to recommend that the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners adopt a .10 mill (1/10) tax levy, anticipated to generate approximately $400,000 annually for parks and recreation.

The determination of whether to apply this levy to summer or winter tax bills remains undecided, with a preference expressed for the winter billing for cost efficiency and simplicity for local units.

The millage will generate approximately $400,000 for county parks and recreation. Commissioners approved the 2025 PC Refresh desktop purchase for $38,883.80. The county's Information Technology Department conducts an annual PC Refresh Program to replace aging computer hardware and ensure optimal performance and security of county systems. The lifecycle goal for all desktop and laptop computers is five years, and the 2025 purchase will replace desktop computers that have reached the end of this operational lifecycle.

The current proposed purchase includes 46 desktop computers as part of the overall 2025 PC Refresh Plan, with laptop procurement being handled separately upon finalization of vendor pricing. Commissioners said this purchase represents a planned budgeted expense for 2025 and will be fully funded by the Technology Improvement Fund.

Commissioners approved a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to repave the courtyard between the Van Buren County Courthouse and Van Buren County Jail.

Commissioners said the condition of the courtyard pavement has significantly deteriorated, creating safety hazards and accessibility concerns for county staff and the Public.

The project was publicly bid, and Kalamazoo Excavation submitted the lowest responsible proposal at $109,874.00. The 2025 approved CIP budget allocated $82,094 for this repaving project. Commissioners said although the submitted proposal exceeds the allocated amount, the additional cost will be offset using surplus funds from other 2025 CIP projects that were completed under budget, resulting in no net increase to the overall CIP expenditures.

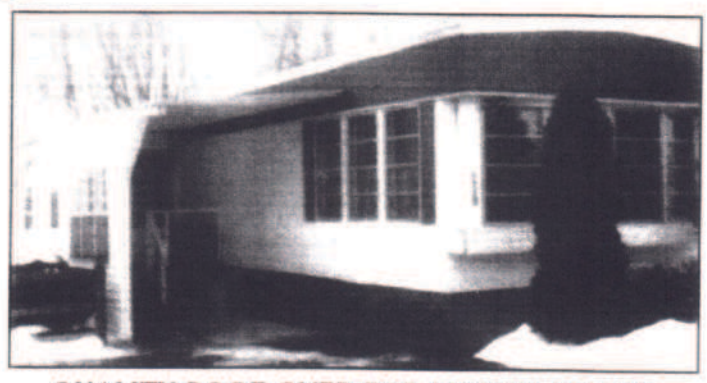
Commissioners approved a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) to replace deteriorating security fencing located between the Van Buren County Courthouse and Van Buren County Jail.

Commissioners said the fencing is critical to maintaining the security and operational integrity of county facilities, protecting both personnel and the general public. The fencing replacement project was reviewed and quoted by Justice Fence at a total cost of $14,795. Funding for this project was included in the 2025 approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget, which allocated $15,000.

Commissioners approved an easement request from Indiana Michigan Power to install electric lines at the county fairgrounds, supporting improved campground service.

Commissioners also approved the 2025 L-4029 tax rate request form, authorizing its submission to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEMS INC.



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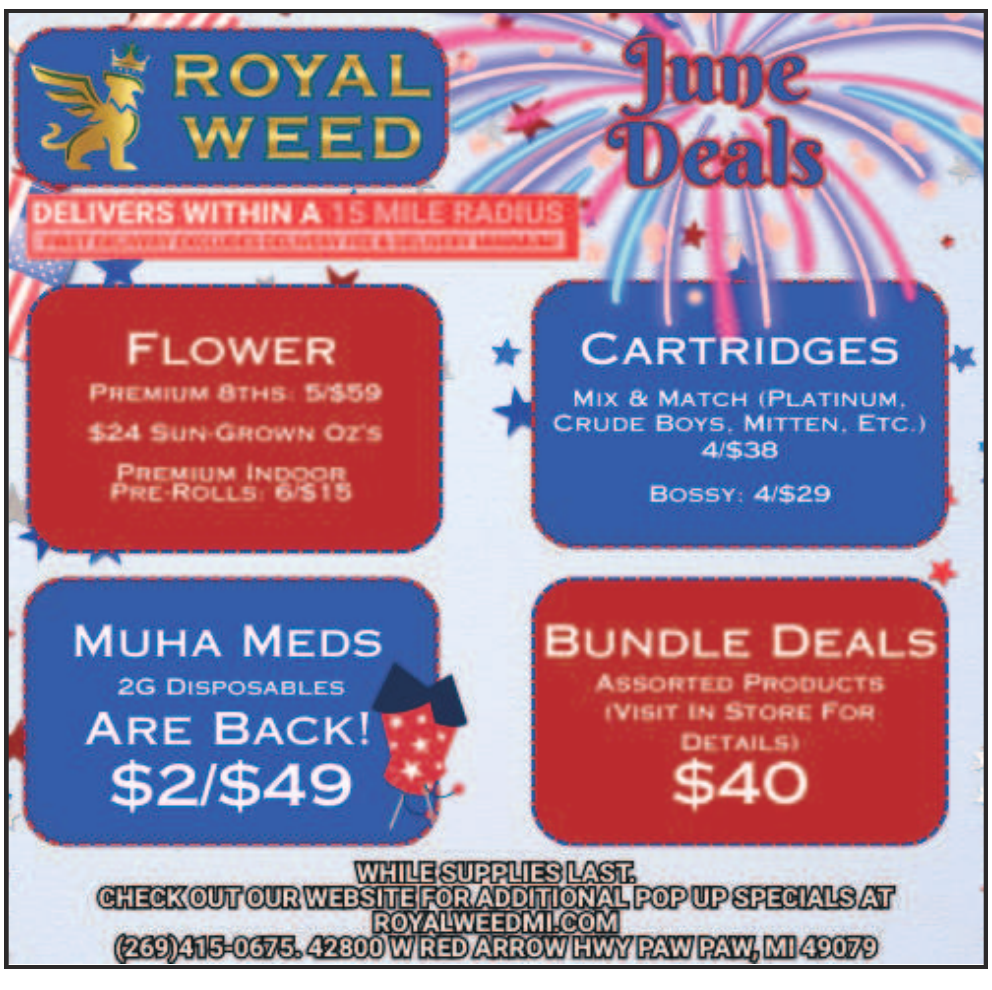

M-40 closure begins near Gobles for culvert replacement

GOBLES – The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and contractor Hoffman Bros. Inc. was scheduled to begin work Monday, June 16, replacing the Brandywine Creek culvert under M-40. The $2.1 million investment includes hot-mix asphalt reconstruction, culvert replacement, drainage upgrades, guardrail improvements, signs and pavement markings on M-40 at 24th Avenue.

The estimated end date is Friday, Sept. 26. M-40 and 24th Avenue will be closed during construction. M-40 traffic will be detoured on M-43, County Road 653 and County Road 388.

24th Avenue will be detoured on 36th Street.

Based on economic modeling, this investment is expected to directly and indirectly support 20 jobs.

The new culvert will last 50-100 years, helping with Brandywine Lake levels and environmental stability.

Occupants of rollover walk away safely

Two occupants of a vehicle that rolled over after leaving County Road 384 near 68th Street, Geneva Township, were safely evacuated by SHAES and law enforcement personnel on Monday morning. The vehicle glanced off a tree after leaving the roadway. The occupants exited on their own power. They were examined by SHAES personnel on-scene.

Museum hosts lecture on the history of racialization of water recreation

By James Windell

Michigan's lakes and beaches have made Michigan a recreational playground. However, not all Michiganders have had access to all the water recreation resources our state has had to offer.

With white people holding social, political, economic, and police power in the state, they determined where Blacks and Whites could vacation or enjoy a day along the Detroit River, at major lakes, and on the shores of Lake Michigan.

On Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 12:00 pm, the Michigan Maritime Museum will be hosting University of Michigan students Edie Adams, David Mori, and Samantha Adams as they share their research on the racialization of water recreation in Michigan during their presentation, White Water, Black Wonderland: Escaping Race, Racializing Space, and Creating Place on the Water.

"U of M's Detroit River Story Lab is thrilled to collaborate with the Michigan Maritime Museum on the Whispers Across the Water Project," says U of M mentor David Porter. "Our PhD students have valued the opportunity to contribute, through in-depth research projects, to community conversations about local heritage while learning from experienced professionals in the field. We look forward to continuing to build on this partnership in the future."

The Michigan Maritime Museum has been collaborating with the Detroit River Story Lab for over a year and is looking forward to hosting three U of M students who can offer their perspectives on Michigan's long history. Edie Adams is a recent graduate from U of M with a degree in History and Linguistics and a minor in Sociology of law, justice, and social change. David Mori is a Ph.D. candidate in History, and focuses his research on twentieth century United States, Asian Americans, activism, and incarceration. Samantha Adams is a Ph.D. candidate in English & Women's and Gender Studies, whose dissertation focuses on relationships between Black Americans and bodies of water beyond the Atlantic Ocean in African American literature and history. Each of these students has had the opportunity to work closely with the DRSL, which has served to inspire each of them to pursue further research and continue their educational journeys.

The lecture is part of the Museum's year-long programmatic series Whispers Across the Water that highlights and celebrates the invaluable contributions of minority communities to Great Lakes maritime history and heritage. Through a dynamic collection of programs and events, this series amplifies the often-overlooked narratives of Indigenous peoples, African Americans, women, and other minority groups who have molded the region's maritime legacy.

The Michigan Maritime Museum lecture series is made possible thanks to the Nielsen-Wells Grant Fund and Mike & Susan Smith.

White Water, Black Wonderland: Escaping Race, Racializing Space, and Creating Place on the Water on Wednesday, June 18 at 12:00 pm at the Michigan Maritime Museum, 260 Dyckman Avenue, South Haven, is free with Museum admission. For more information about the Museum's events, visit: https://www.michiganmaritimemuseum.org/events/.

Fifty years of teaching...and counting!

PAW PAW - On Sunday, June 29, at the 11 a.m. service, Trinity Lutheran Church, Paw Paw, will honor Deanna Hindenach for 50 years of teacher education. Forty of those years were dedicated to her role at Trinity Lutheran School as a preschool director/teacher and as an elementary/middle school administrator and teacher.

"If you counted the years that I taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and tutored Latin to high school students, the years would add up to 69. My first actual teaching experience was at the age of 13, when following confirmation, I asked our pastor if I could teach Sunday School, and he gave me my first class of 20 second graders," said Hindenach. "My classroom was in the basement of our old Trinity Lutheran Church on Niles Street in Paw Paw. My mother, Hildegard Brill, also taught a Sunday School class, and she was my mentor. Her classroom was in the church's coal bin which was converted into a classroom. Here is where I watched her engage her class of three-year-olds who were seated around a table. Her only teaching tool was a flannel board, and her strategy was giving each one a safety sucker to keep them quiet while she taught the lesson. Ingenious! I can still hear her charming German accent as she told the Bible lesson," said Hindenach."

Following graduation from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, in 1964 with a B.A degree in secondary education, Hindenach taught Latin and English at Lawrence High School and Middle School.

"I loved my first actual teaching assignment. My students were not only very intelligent but very motivated. School parents were welcoming and their support for a new teacher was amazing. We joined the Junior Classical League and traveled to other schools for Roman Holidays where we earned many trophies in Latin competitions. Two of my students attended WMU and became Latin teachers," said Hindenach.

In 1967, the Hindenachs were blessed with a set of twin boys, and she and her husband Robert (Butch) decided that she would take a hiatus from teaching to raise the twins. Shortly after, two daughters were born to the family.

In 1978, when all their children were in elementary school, Hindenach wanted to return to teaching Latin, but the schools in the area had changed their curriculums to focus on modern languages, and with no Spanish teaching jobs available, she accepted a position as lead teacher at Gilchrist Nursery School, Paw Paw, where her daughters had previously attended.

"The years I taught there were wonderful, and now, as I look back, I can see God's hand guiding me and helping me to transition to a new role," said Hindenach.

In 1985, Hindenach accepted a position as the director/teacher of a new Christ-centered preschool at Trinity Lutheran Church. Bonnie Richardson, who had served as her aide at Gilchrist, became her assistant.

"We were quite a team! We felt God's hand guiding us as we planned a new Christ-centered program for Trinity. "Hired in June, we had three months to license the facility, plan a curriculum, fill the classroom with age-appropriate equipment, and enroll students. Again, God was with us, and we were able to open our doors to our new TLC Preschool Christ-centered Program in August," said Hindenach. By January, we had enrolled over 75 preschoolers in four classes. The following year, we added an additional preschool class and hired additional staff to accommodate the parents who wanted a Christ-centered program for their children. In 1992, encouraged by preschool parents, a Christ-centered kindergarten program was added with 18 students. Trinity's mission minded congregation voted to add one new grade each year," said Hindenach. "We witnessed many miracles over the beginning years of our new Lutheran School. God always answered our prayers for funding a new classroom. Monetary gifts from a group of parents from Zion Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo provided the salary of a kindergarten teacher along with all the classroom supplies. When we wanted to add a third grade, we were faced with no room in our facilities. We had filled every space with school children." She continued, "God provided another miracle in the person of an older gentleman named Reinhold Schendel. This visionary man gifted the school the necessary money to purchase two modular classrooms. When we added a fifth grade we were again out of room and rented classroom space at the Methodist Church facility where we bussed our students every day."

Hindenach said, "St. Mary's School graciously allowed us to use their gym for physical education. At this point, Trinity's congregation voted to purchase land adjacent to the church and build an elementary school that would house our preschool through eighth grade. Again, God answered our prayers, and Schendel purchased the property. After his death the following year, he blessed us with his final monetary gift, which allowed us to add a junior high wing and library to our school site."

In 1995, Hindenach accepted the position of president of the Battle Creek Zone of the LWML. She also received her induction to the LCMS Michigan District Principals Conference that same year. In 2001, after two years of study and appearing before a panel of Lutheran pastors, she earned her Colloquy (Minister of Religion) from Concordia in Ann Arbor.

"God was challenging me with leadership opportunities. Also, that year marked the graduation of our first class of eighth graders and the addition of a new childcare facility. Trinity now serves students from infant to sixth grade," she said.

In addition to teaching children, Hindenach has been a presenter at many conferences including the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) Mission Outreach Conference, a LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) Michigan Teachers Conference which she co-taught with Carol Fechik, and two Catholic Diocese Conferences. She also was a guest teacher for a class at Lake Michigan College for students enrolled in early childhood education.

Her resume also includes visiting many Lutheran Churches along with her assistant, Bonnie Richardson, to help each church in their quest to begin a Christ-centered preschool program. The two helped St. Michael Lutheran School in Portage develop their Lutheran School program.

"God blessed me with Miss Bonnie who was always my right hand. I could never have accomplished any of this without her encouragement, friendship, and help. We actually wrote a book together about the school. I have never been able to publish it because I keep adding to it each year," said Hindenach.

"As I look to the future of Trinity Lutheran School, I know, without a doubt, that God will continue to bless us with children, because we have many church members who believe that the school is a mission. I thank God for allowing me to be a small part of His plan. Thousands of children and their families have passed through our doors. Our amazing, loving, God created a school here at Trinity where, with His help and guidance, we as a church and school will continue to welcome students as they build a foundation on Jesus Christ for life," said Hindenach.

When asked about her future role at Trinity, she said, "I have always been blessed with a husband and family who supports my love for teaching. God willing, I will teach next year. I believe I am teaching Spanish, Michigan History, American History, and journalism. I am also planning a school-wide family trip to Mackinac Island in May 2026. I'm having too much fun to retire. I hear Jesus' words, 'Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them for they belong to the Kingdom of God.' What can I say? I love to teach, and I love Trinity Lutheran Church and School, our teachers, staff, our students and families. To God be the glory, forever!" she said.

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VIEWPOINT

Moving woes, why do I keep doing it?

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX ■ PUBLISHER ■

For some reason I feel the need to move from one house to another, or one office to another, every few years. This time my fiancé and I, decided to move from our condo to a house on an acre of land. This is after three years ago, moving in the condo, I declared, "This is my forever home."

But it wasn't. As usual, I got the itch to move into another home and moving days were last Friday and Saturday. We hired a moving company, instead of taking on the task ourselves, even though we were only moving 10 miles away, but it was well worth the money.

My old bones ached from the five or six SUV trips we made back and forth with important personal items. I hobbled from car to house and house to car, like someone would walk 20 years my senior. It was exhausting, and now we sit in a house full of boxes, wondering where the most rudimentary items are. Where's my toothbrush, or even my underwear.

I had to get my office set up and ready to go for 7 am Monday. That meant reconnecting my myriad of computers, screens etc. Then Spectrum was summoned to hook up the internet. I figured it one be a simple process. Was I wrong. Four hours later they were still at the house trying to get me internet. Waiting around was nauseating. I had so much to do but had to wait around while Spectrum technicians had to figure out, what I thought was a simple situation.

In the end it all worked out but I'm clueless when it comes to Xomos, Spectrum's new streaming service they push on you instead of cable. The jury is still out whether Xomos is better than the old-fashioned cable I have had for 40 years. I know it takes some time to get used to. We are still trying to figure out the new channel line-up.

Moving is always stressful, but this time we broke nothing at least what we know of. We are still unpacking so who knows what broken glass lies in wait. But it is nothing like the time a few years back when we moved our Paw Paw office.

We didn't have movers; it was just my son and I. After an exhaustive stretch, we climbed into the truck to take off to our own destination. As I back out, we both hear a strange crunch noise. I'm wondering what could we have run over? I ordered my son out to inspect and lo and behold, a 60-inch television was smashed to bits.

In his lack of wisdom, my son had placed the TV at the back of the truck and forgot it was there. I didn't think about it, thus that TV was no longer operative.

That same day we took a break and sat on a park bench. He brought along his laptop. As we again were pulling out, running over the TV, and on our way, a thought came to him- "where is my laptop?"

We high-tailed it back to the park bench and learned it was no longer there. We went to the police department, but they had no clue as to its whereabout.

Moving that day was expensive. We lost a very nice television, and a laptop loaded with company information. Maybe hiring a moving company would make more sense.

Did I tell you I hate moving!

Sheriff's Report- Extra police patrols around Three Mike Lake area following report of larcenies

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response took a call about an unknown individual prowling around in the Three Mile Lake area at night. "Nothing was reported stolen at this time, but extra patrols will be focused on that area especially since we've taken larcenies there over the past year," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Uniform Response took a UDAA (Unlawful Driving Away Automobile) in Porter Township. The vehicle was later found in Kalamazoo. There are no suspects at this time.

Uniform Response handled a PIA (Personal Injury Accident) in Decatur Township. "The driver went left of center and then into the ditch, striking a large boulder. The driver was not wearing a seat belt and was taken to the hospital for their injuries," said Sheriff Abbott. The crash remains under investigation.

"We consistently have new dogs coming into the shelter every week. We have a new Kennel Director, Magen Spiece, who has worked her way up through the office to that position, so you can meet her when you stop out there to meet your four-legged friend to take home," said Sheriff Abbott.

"This is just a reminder about all the different ways scammers are scamming people. This past week, a mass text went out identifying themselves as the Michigan State Department of Vehicles. Time after time scammers do this with a link to click on and pay. This scam is a lot like the others in a threatening fashion to put doubt in people's minds paying or not. As always, if you have any questions about it possibly being a scam, contact law enforcement immediately," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Deputy Scotty Borah was honored in receiving a Life Saving award at the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners meeting. "Deputy Borah responded to a one-month-old choking, not breathing at times. Deputy Borah was able to clear the airway, hence, saving the infant's life," said Sheriff Abbott.

"Our Dive Team dove a lake in Keeler Township searching for a body on a cold case. They dove the same lake recently and were diving at other marked locations," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic assault in Hartford Township. "A passerby called in to our dispatch advising two people were physically fighting at the residence in the front yard. Upon arrival, the male suspect hid in a closet and was found upon a consent search of the residence by the female victim. The investigation found the female was physically assaulted and the male was the aggressor," said Sheriff Abbott. The suspect was lodged for the incident.

Uniform Response handled an attempted larceny at the Dollar General in Bloomingdale.

Two individuals attempted to steal an item and were caught by the workers. The store didn't wish to prosecute them, only have them permanently trespassed, so they were advised they are no longer able to come to the store, or they'd be arrested by law enforcement.

Uniform Response handled a prowler Incident in Columbia Township. An unknown suspect was caught looking around buildings in the early morning hours on a surveillance camera. Deputies didn't locate the suspect, and nothing was taken at the time. Deputies are still working on identifying the suspect.

OBITUARY

Maxine Ann (Sheldon) Sherburn, 89, passed away peacefully on June 5, 2025, in Branch, Michigan. She was born on Aug. 9, 1935, the youngest daughter of Ralph and Edith Sheldon. She had three sisters, Shirley (Sheldon) (Late Harry) Lambert and Katheryn "Kate" (Sheldon) (late Leonard) Brown.

Maxine graduated from Mattawan High School in 1953. In the year 2000, she earned her associate's degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Maxine was united in marriage to Gerald Dee Sherburn in 1955. They spent 30 years together. The couple eventually divorced but remained friends for the next 36 years until Gerald's passing in 2021. Gerald and Maxine had two children together, Kimm (Sherburn) (late Frank) Sage and Tad Sherburn.

Throughout her life, Maxine was very active and loved to travel and stayed active until recently. She was very involved in and worked at the Presbyterian Church in Paw Paw. She then went on to work at Paw Paw Public Schools in 1970. Maxine also worked for the Community Education Department and was responsible for running the Adult Education Program, scheduling the weekly after school program and running the extensive summer school program, where she utilized multiple school buildings and grounds. She enjoyed going on field trips to all the nearby zoos and theme parks. She retired in 1997.

After retirement, she worked for the Sisters of St. Joseph at Nazareth College, Kalamazoo. She loved working for the Sisters of St. Joseph. She also helped a friend for several years with organization and packing/unpacking for trips around the world. She accompanied this friend on many of those trips, all while helping her out. Maxine worked part-time at a different church during this time.

Maxine enjoyed her cabin in Baldwin and made many trips back and forth to Baldwin throughout the years. Maxine also traveled to England, Nova Scotia, Alaska, Canada, Arizona Dude Ranch, almost everywhere in Michigan, Florida, Tennessee, New York, The Rockies and Appalachian Mountains. Maxine had a passion for collecting lighthouses and vowed to visit every lighthouse in Michigan. She visited all but one! The trips she took were no five-star hotel stays! She camped or stayed in cabins on every trip! She loved to hike and was very passionate about it. She also enjoyed water-skiing, boating, swimming, walking and kayaking. She bowled on the bowling league for a stint. She also had a Bunco and Pinochle club and loved to play some serious Bunco and Pinochle!

Maxine will be deeply missed by her many friends and family. Her love of people and travel will carry on to future generations. She stayed very active until recently.

She is survived by her two children, Kimm (late Frank) Sage and Tad Sherburn; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; 33 nieces and nephews; and dozens more great-nieces and nephews.

Maxine is preceded in death by her parents; her former husband, Gerald Sherburn; sisters, Shirley (Harry) Lambert, Katheryn "Kate" (Leonard) Brown; son-in-law, Frank Sage; grandson-in-law, Jonathan Vore; four nieces, four nephews; and nine brothers-in-law.

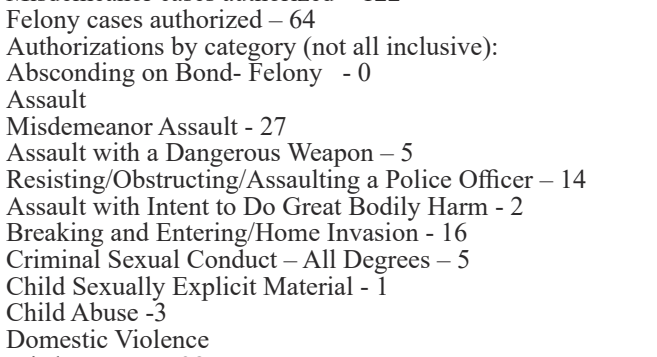
A memorial gathering will be held Tuesday, June 24, from noon to 2 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. Maxine will be laid to rest privately at Maple Grove Cemetery, Mattawan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49009.

From the Van Buren County Prosecutor's Desk

For the month of May 2025:
Authorizations by category (not all inclusive):
Absconding on Bond – Felony - 3
Assault
Misdemeanor Assault - 11
Assault with a Dangerous Weapon - 4
Resisting/Obstructing/Assaulting a Police Officer - 10
Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm - 3
Breaking and Entering/Home Invasion - 3
Criminal Sexual Conduct – All Degrees - 6
Child Abuse - 2
Domestic Violence
Misdemeanor - 36
Felony - 3
Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer - 3
Larceny
Larceny/Retail Fraud – Misdemeanor - 20
Larceny/Retail Fraud – Felony - 9
Financial Transaction Device Charges - 6
Embezzlement - 3
Uttering and Publishing - 2
Unlawful Driving Away of a Vehicle/Unlawful Use - 1
Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property - 3
Organized Retail Crime - 1
Operating while impaired/intoxicated
Misdemeanor - 20
Felony - 2
Possession/Delivery of a controlled substance other than methamphetamine - 1
Possession/Delivery of Methamphetamine - 9
Weapons Charges -1

For the month of April 2025:
Misdemeanor cases authorized – 122
Felony cases authorized – 64
Authorizations by category (not all inclusive):
Absconding on Bond- Felony - 0
Assault
Misdemeanor Assault - 27
Assault with a Dangerous Weapon – 5
Resisting/Obstructing/Assaulting a Police Officer – 14
Assault with Intent to Do Great Bodily Harm - 2
Breaking and Entering/Home Invasion - 16
Criminal Sexual Conduct – All Degrees – 5
Child Sexually Explicit Material - 1
Child Abuse -3
Domestic Violence
Misdemeanor – 38
Felony - 1
Fleeing and Eluding a Police Officer – 2
Larceny
Larceny/Retail Fraud - Misdemeanor - 12
Larceny/Retail Fraud – Felony – 6
Financial Transaction Device Charges – 1
Embezzlement – 1
Uttering and Publishing – 1
Unlawful Driving Away of a Vehicle/Unlawful Use – 1
Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property – 6
Organized Retail Crime - 2
Operating while impaired/intoxicated
Misdemeanor -15
Felony - 1
Possession/Delivery of a controlled substance other than methamphetamine - 4
Possession/Delivery of methamphetamine – 7
Maintaining a Drug House - 0
Weapons Charges - 10
Homicide - 0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Offsite at Maple Lake Amphitheater
Tuesday, June 24
10:30 am-noon
ADULTS: Color Me Happy
Tuesday, June 24
6 pm-7:30 pm
EVERYONE: Foster Care Craft & Learn
Thursday, June 26
6:30 pm-7:30 pm
ADULTS: Between the Lines Book Club
The Big House by George Howe Colt
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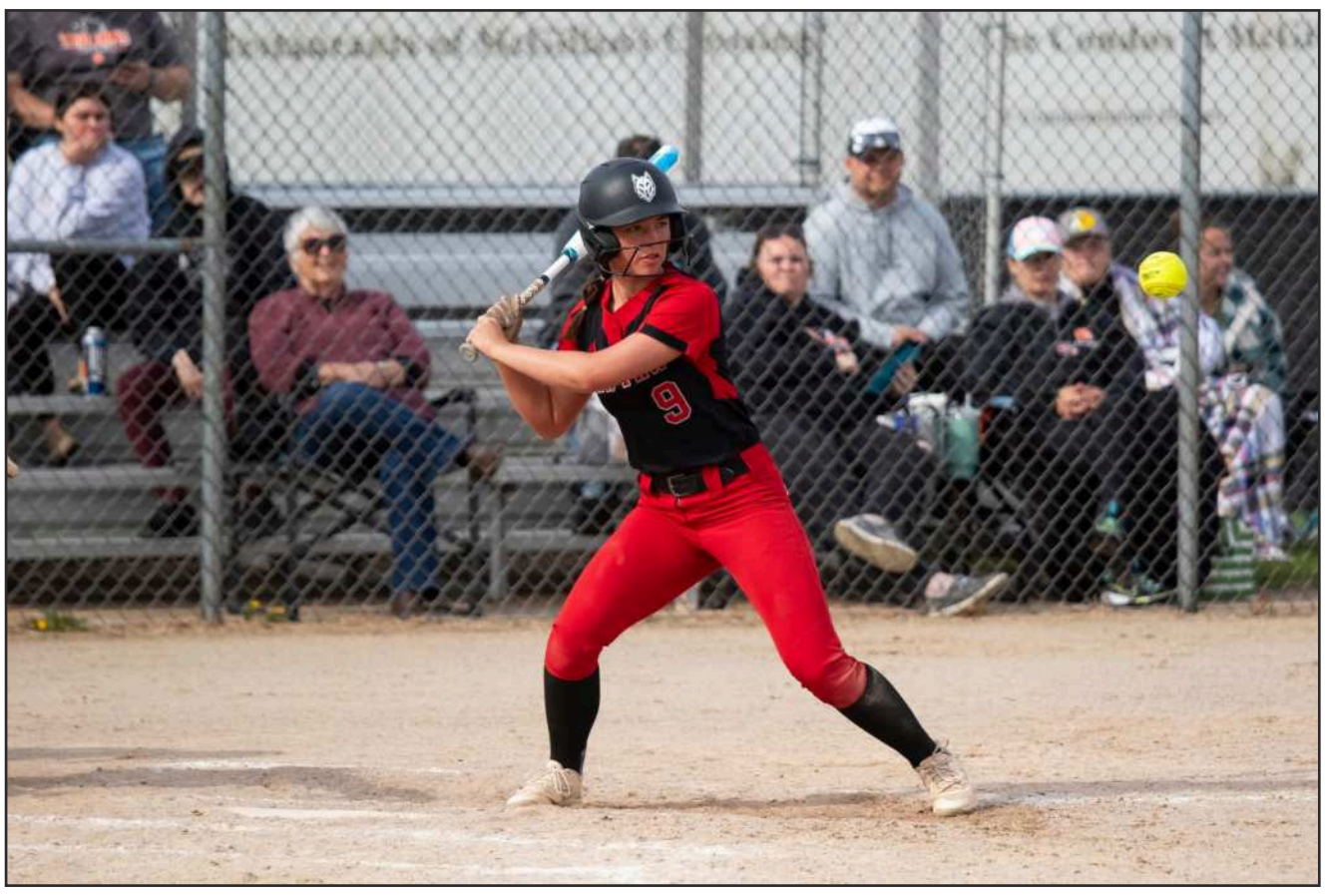
SPORTS

Vanderburg's dramatic home run puts Paw Paw in finals



Elizabeth Vanderburg blasted a dramatic walkout two-run home for Paw Paw in the semifinal game on June 12.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

EAST LANSING — It was a shot heard from East Lansing all the way to Paw Paw on Thursday morning.

Elizabeth Vanderburg smacked a walkoff two-run home run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh of Thursday's (Jan. 12) semifinal game at Michigan State University's softball field for a 3-2 win over Carleton Airport (33-9).

It put Paw Paw in the finals against Richmond where the Wolves would lose 3-0.

But the semifinal victory which put Paw Paw in the title game and the dramatic way it happened will be remembered for a long time by Paw Paw players, coaches and fans.

"It was absolutely amazing," Paw Paw coach Mike Mottl said. "When Elizabeth got up to bat with two outs and Carlie (Streich) on first, I just started at her with the biggest smile. She looked at me and I just said 'let's finish this.' And like she's done numerous times this sports season, she finished it."

Airport scored in the first innings 2-0 on a Peyton Zajac double but would be held in check the rest of the way by pitcher Lauren Mackeller, who gave up six hits and two runs over seven innings, striking out 11 and walking none. Alayan McDonald took the loss for Airport, going 6.2 innings and allowing three runs on eight hits, striking out four and walking two.

Vanderburg drove home all three Paw Paw runs including with a single in the fifth. She was 3-for-3. She, Carlie Streich and Stella Shaeger each collected two hits for the Wolves who didn't commit an error. Streich was the No. 9 batter in the order but had the key single in the seventh

Vanderburg, a sophomore, had other walkout game-winning base hits late in the season.

"She has been so clutch for us all season," Mottl said. "And Lauren pitched an absolute gem after getting behind in the first inning.

Vanderburg readily admitted the walkout home run on the big stage was a thrill she'll never forget.

"It's amazing, I'm so happy we'll go to the championship on Saturday," she said, adding that going into the bottom of the seventh "we were just hoping to get a rally going, girl by girl, hope for a hit and move each other around. We believed in each other, one through nine we've believed we could do it.

"We've been in this situation for so many times. We believed in each other."

Vanderburg hit the home run on the first pitch.

"I was hoping to get on and get a base hit and move the runners around. I believed in any of the other girls coming up that they could do the same thing that I did," Vanderburg said. "I was just hoping to get on base and not getting an out so any other batter could get us home."

As she looked at the first pitch, "it was the best pitch I had seen," Vanderburg said. "I knew if I let it go I would not have gotten another good pitch like that. I went for it. It was a high inside fastball."

Just where she likes it.

When Vanderburg hit the ball, "I knew it was gone," she said. "I slowly was jogging but I was a little nervous it was foul. I thought it was close (to foul territory) but not as close as I thought after looking to the videos."

When she knew it was a home run "I was so happy I could be there for my team and pick us all up from being down," Vanderburg said.

It was her 14th home run of the season. Vanderburg admits she's never gotten as many hugs in her whole life as she did after No. 14.

"There were five or six reporters who talked to me afterwards," Vanderburg said.

Gobles basketball standout eyes senior season

Gobles' Jayden Otis attempts a free throw during the regular season.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Jayden Otis' senior basketball season with Gobles basketball was a very impressive one.

Otis is focusing his efforts now on getting ready for his senior season.

Last season, he competed his second year of varsity hoops. From his sophomore year, he said he improved "a lot. I was better on scoring. Coach helped me. I was driving (to the basket) more effectively."

He had a game high of 22 points.

In that game, "I was dunking on a kid," Otis said, adding the dunk fired up he and his team.

"As a post player, he averaged eight rebounds a game. The key was boxing out and jumping high," Otis said. The highest number of rebounds he got in one game was between 11 and 13.

Gobles season ended in the district finals.

"It was a big improvement from last year," Otis said.

Otis said a regular-season win over Black River was a sweet moment.

As for the 2025-26 season "we're moving most of our JV up. I think it will be a good team," Otis said.

He plans on a busy offseason. Basketball is his only sport.

Bangor soccer player has solid season

Solexey Calderon was a freshman goalkeeper for Bangor.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

BANGOR — Bangor's Solexey Calderon had a lot of fun during the recently completed soccer season.

Bangor had a 2-0 win over Covert in the soccer district first-round game. Byron Center Zion Christian beat Bangor in the district semifinal

"The team played awesome this season," Calderon said. "I think I played pretty good for being a freshman goalkeeper. I think I improved on communication on the field and off with my teammates.

I feel like my role on the team was to help out with mistakes and push the team to keep on trying to improve them.

"It was my first year playing high school soccer but I think it hasn't changed much from my eighth grade year. My fundamental strengths as a player were my kicks because of their power. I have worked on some skills to play on the field if needed."

There were many key moments.

"My memorable moments were when I scored against Bloomingdale from a free kick while I was playing keeper," Calderon said. "Some of the best team highlights were when the team won our tournament at home. Another was when we showed up late to our game against Comstock and beat them. I met almost all my expectations for the season, and probably past some.

"We met and exceeded our expectations because we set goals for the season,"

A major highlight for Calderon "was when I saved a ball that was going to go bottom corner, I don't remember who we played."

Calderon is also in basketball.

"Soccer is my favorite and best sport," she said. "I've played it for eight years and I've never stopped loving it even if I got frustrated while playing. Next on my agenda is to play well on my E64 team for club. I want to give a shout out to my captain Madison Lennox."

Red Wolves rally for quarterfinal win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — While the state semifinal win for Paw Paw's softball team was dramatic on June 12 with Elizabeth Vanderburg's walkoff home run, the quarterfinal victory two days prior didn't lack for drama either.

Vanderburg hit two home runs and drove in three for the Red Wolves in a 5-4 Division 2 win over the Coldwater Cardinals at Battle Creek's Bailey Park.

Vanderburg's homer in the fifth and seventh innings were huge.

She had a home run to center in the fifth to give Paw Paw a 3-1 lead.

But Coldwater took the lead in the top of the sixth when Lannie VanAken singled in two runs and Vandria Bucklin grounded out to send home a run.

Vanderburg's homer in the bottom of the seventh tied the game 4-4. The next batter, Cami Vandermeeden followed that with a triple and would score on a steal of home to win the game.

"I told the girls it didn't matter when we score, only that we do and I had complete faith in them," coach Mike Mottl said. "The key to the rally was the home run Elizabeth Vanderburg hit. The thing that pleased me most was how the girls picked each other up whenever they made a mistake? The quarterfinals win on June 10 would send Paw Paw to the semifinals on June 12.

"To say the girls are excited for making it to MSU is a massive understatement," Mottl said.

South Haven tennis girls draw honors

By John Raffel

South Haven Rams girls tennis coach TJ Koehler announced post season honors for her team,

Southwestern Athletic Conference Valley First Team All Conference: Olivia Emenhiser

SAC All Conference Honorable Mention: Evani Flores

And Elena Cavadas.

During the spring season, South Haven played the likes of Niles Brandywine, Three Rivers, Berrien Springs, Buchanan, Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep, Niles, Buchanan, Niles Brandywine, Holland Black River, Allegan, Vicksburg, New Buffalo, Kalamazoo Christian, Galesburg-Augusta, Paw Paw and Allegan.

The South Haven program was scheduled to be busy this month with summer tennis camps.

Camps for upper elementary for those entering fourth and fifth grade were on June 9-11, Monday through Wednesday from 9-11 a.m.

There were also camps for middle school for those entering sixth through ninth grade on June 16-18, Monday through Wednesday, from 9-11 a.m.

Paw Paw soccer presents awards

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Paw Paw Lady Wolves soccer team wrapped up its season with the recent banquet at the coach's house.

The varsity soccer team again was all state academic, four years straight. Others collecting awards:

Jill Fulcher - Captain, All Conference Honorable mention

Jersie Yarbrough - Captain, All district.

Leah Graves - Second Team All Conference, Offensive MVP

Isabella McCrossin- Second Team All Conference, Team MVP

Victoria Lopez - All Conference Honorable mention, All District, Defensive MVP

Hannah Buettner - Coaches Award.

Paw Paw's girls soccer team recently ended the season at 7-7-1.

The season ended in a 1-0 loss to Stevensville Lakeshore.

Paw Paw's soccer team earned All State Academic honors for a fourth year in a row.

Jose Patino served as Paw Paw coach.

Paw Paw had a 3-3-1 record for fourth place in the Wolverine Conference. Otsego won the conference at 7-0-0 while Plainwell was second at 6-1-1.

Paw Paw fans celebrate special season

By John Raffel
Correspondent

EAST LANSING — It was an experience Paw Paw softball fans will never forget: watching their team go to the state title game before losing 3-0 to Richmond on Saturday at Michigan State University.

Paw Paw ended the season at 37-4.

"It's been huge for the community," coach Mike Mottl said.

Paw Paw fans were especially joyful on Thursday at MSU when Elizabeth Vanderburg smacked a walkoff two-run home with two outs in the bottom of the seventh for a thrilling 3-2 victory in the state semifinal game over Carleton Airport.

Paw Paw fans were ecstatic.

"There's been an incredible amount of support from our Paw Paw fans," Vanderburg said after the semifinal game. "We appreciate it because it really gets us going so much knowing we have the support of our community.

"We had been the first softball team to make it past regional quarterfinals, semifinals and make it to the finals."

The stands were full with Paw Paw and Richmond fans who came to watch their team. Paw Paw fans are hopeful the 2026 could also be a successful one since all players are returning.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PORTER TOWNSHIP
VAN BUREN COUNTY
88040 M-40 Lawton, MI 49065
Budget Workshop - May 14, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the budget workshop to order at 6:15 pm. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith.

Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to adjourn the budget workshop at 6:47 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Regular Meeting - May 14, 2025

Supervisor Oxley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present – Oxley, Bitely, Nesbitt, Packer, and Smith. Also present – Attorney T Schuitmaker and three guests.

Motion by Packer with support by Nesbitt to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 9, 2025. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Nesbitt with support by Bitely to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to approve a Supervisor Salary Resolution at a rate of $28,260 for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve a Clerk Salary Resolution at a rate of $28,260, plus $2,000 per election, for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Packer to approve a Treasurer Salary Resolution at a rate of $28,260 for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Nesbitt to approve a Trustee Salary Resolution at a rate of $5,280 for the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Smith with support by Bitely to approve the 2025 Road Program as presented, at a cost not to exceed $340,000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Motion by Bitely with support by Packer to approve Zoning Solution's recommended coalition project to do a cleanup on Frosty Acres and blighted properties, at a cost not to exceed $70,000. Roll call vote – all yes. Motion passed.

Township Hall addition bid opening will be held June 11, 2025 at 6:15 pm.

2025/2026 Budget Public Hearing will be held June 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Fire Special Assessment District public hearing will be held June 11, 2025 at 6:40 pm.

Road Special Assessment District public hearing will be held June 11, 2025 at 6:50 pm.

Motion by Bitely with support by Nesbitt to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Voice vote – all yes. Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Smith
Porter Township Clerk

State of Michigan, Probate Court,
County of Van Buren
Notice to Creditors Decedent's Trust
IN RE: CECIL RAMOS, JR. AND MARGARET P. RAMOS TRUST
dated march 8, 2018, as restated.
Date of Birth of Margaret P. Ramos:
December 30,1938 (12/30/1938)

To All Creditors:
Notice to creditors: The decedent, Margaret P. Ramos who lived at 35633 Margurite Lane, Paw Paw, Michigan Died May 12,2025.
No probate estate is currently contemplated for the decedent. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent and the Cecil Ramos, Jr. and Margaret P. Ramos Trust dated March 8,2018, as restated, will be forever barred unless presented to: Melissa Diaz, named Trustee of the Cecil Ramos, Jr. and Margaret P Ramos Trust dated March 8,2018, as amended, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 11,2025

Attorney
Willis Law
Michael J. Willis #P62567
491 W. South St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
(269) 492-1040
Trustee
Melissa Diaz
35790 Bellware Blvd
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 491-0087

State of Michigan, Probate Court, Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS DECEDENT'S ESTATE
CASE NO. 2025-1093-DE
Estate of PETER M. FERRY, Deceased
Date of Birth: June 17,1947 (6/17/1947)

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Peter M. Ferry, Deceased, died September 17,2024 (9/17/2024).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Carolyn O'Connor Ferry, personal representative, or to both the probate court at
212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079
and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

June 13,2025

Attorney
Andrew W. Barnes #P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative
Carolyn O'Connor Ferry
4363 N. Park Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46205
847-606-0830

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Kevin M Smith; Atty: BETTER CHOICE NOTICE SOLUTIONS - Brock & Scott PLLC MI; 1st Pub: 5/29/2025; Atty File #: 25-12656; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the Mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage made by Kevin M. Smith to American Advisors Group dated June 6, 2022 and recorded June 13, 2022 in Liber 1739 at Page 520, Van Buren County, Michigan. Said Mortgage is now held by Finance of America Reverse LLC by assignment and/or merger. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of $56,440.01. Said premises are located in Van Buren County, Michigan and are described as: THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 19 AND THE NORTH 30 FEET OF LOT 20, FOWLER'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF PAW PAW. Being the same property conveyed to Kevin M. Smith, a single man from Michael T. Smith and Kevin M. Smith, Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Fern E. Smith, deceased, Van Buren county probate Court File No. 20081133DE by Quit Claim Deed dated April 15, 2009 and recorded April 16, 2009 among the Land Records of Van Buren County, State of Michigan in Book 1517, Page 469 Instrument No. 3198477. Tax Account #: 80-41-200-019-00 Said property is commonly known as 209 S State St, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages, if any, are limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Please be advised that any third party purchaser is responsible for preparing and recording the Sheriff's Deed. If this is a residential Mortgage, the following shall apply: ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IF YOU: ARE A DEBTOR IN AN ACTIVE BANKRUPTCY CASE; ARE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A BANKRUPTCY STAY; OR, HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE IN BANKRUPTCY AND YOU HAVE NOT REAFFIRMED THE DEBT, THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT FROM YOU PERSONALLY. Dated: May 20, 2025 Attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage: Thomas E. McDonald (P39312) Brock & Scott, PLLC 5431 Oleander Drive Wilmington, NC 28403 PHONE: (844) 856-6646 File No. 25-12656

(05-29)(06-19)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529-25; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY.
ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-One and 55/100 U.S. Dollars ($60,581.55). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.
The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 05/27/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-25

(06-05)(06-26)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Danny J Clendenin; Atty: ALAW - ALAW; 1st Pub: 6/5/2025; Atty File #: 24-031214; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on July 3, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagors: Danny J & Angelene Clendenin, a husband and wife Original Mortgagee: United States of America acting through the Rural Housing Service or successor agency, United States Department of Agriculture Date of mortgage: March 13, 2012 Recorded on March 15, 2012, Book 1563, on Page 519. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine and 30/100 Dollars ($131,789.30) Mortgaged premises: Located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County and described as: LOT 32, WOODHENGE ESTATES, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 6 OF PLATS, ON PAGE 27, IN THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR VAN BUREN COUNTY. Commonly known as 22327 Woodhenge Dr, Mattawan MI 49071
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961 pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. ALAW 5404 Cypress Center Drive, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33609 (813) 221-4743 24-031214

(06-05)(06-26)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: HEATHER GIBSON; ATTY: ORLANS; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-005744; INSURER: GNMA
ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on JULY 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Heather Gibson, a single woman, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated March 30, 2021 and recorded April 2, 2021 in Liber 1716, Page 408 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand Fourteen and 20/100 Dollars ($123,014.20).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on JULY 10, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
The Northerly 75 feet of the Westerly 150 feet of Lot 11, Block 6, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records.
310 N John St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: June 12, 2025
File No. 25-005744
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(06-12)(07-03)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at one o'clock in the afternoon on 17th day of July, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. SIX, a Michigan limited partnership, MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. FIVE, a Michigan limited partnership, DECATUR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, GROW BLUE, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, K FARM HOLDINGS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, THOMAS R. MITCHELL, as TRUSTEE of the THOMAS R. MITCHELL TRUST u/t/a dated August 21, 2000 and K HOG HOLDINGS, LLC a Michigan limited liability company (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated July 2, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on July 12, 2019, in Liber 1686, Page 525 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Thirteen Million Thirty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight and 68/1000 Dollars ($13,031,878.68). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Townships of Bangor and Covert, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
PARCEL 10: That part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 17 West, described as: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Section 36; thence South 88 degrees 47 minutes 59 seconds East, on the North Section line, 1315.06 feet to the East line of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter; thence South 01 degree 11 minutes 32 seconds West, on same, 2626.49 feet to the East and West Quarter line; thence North 88 degrees 30 minutes 45 seconds West, on same, 657.53 feet to the East line of the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 32 seconds East, on same, 1311.60 feet to the North line of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter; thence North 88 degrees 39 minutes 22 seconds West, on same, 657.53 feet to the West Section line; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 41 seconds East, on same, 706.19 feet; thence South 80 degrees 37 minutes 39 seconds East 626.21 feet; thence North 09 degrees 53 minutes 01 second East 146.01 feet; thence North 31 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds West 298.06 feet; thence North 80 degrees 37 minutes 39 seconds West 485.11 feet to the West Section line; thence North 01 degree 11 minutes 41 seconds East, on same, 229.12 feet to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-07-036-001-11
PARCEL 27: The West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 17 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Tax Item No. 80-07-036-002-00
PARCEL 29: Beginning at the South Quarter post of Section 20, Town 2 South, Range 16 West, according to the Government Survey thereof; thence North, along the Quarter line, 443.2 feet; thence South 87 degrees 14 minutes West 632.9 feet to a line which is 24 feet East of and parallel to the West line of the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section; thence South 0 degrees 06 minutes East, along the last described line, 414.98 feet to the South line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 20 seconds East, along the South line of said Section, 631.4 feet to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-04-020-013-00
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee, a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all grain handling facilities and equipment, scales, crop dryers, grain storage facilities, elevators, augers, conveyors, power units, fuel storage, electrical controls and testing equipment with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all feed storage and handling systems, feeders, waterers, water handling systems and medication injection systems, manure handling and storing systems, farrowing equipment, pens, swine nursery equipment, ventilating, lighting and heating systems, auxiliary power system, electrical control systems with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all irrigation equipment, including but not limited to, pumps, gear heads, power units, water distribution and sprinkler systems, fertilizer and chemical injection systems, electrical systems and controls with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.
Mortgagor hereby further grant to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: "Fixture language" located on and affixed to the above described real estate. Feed mill together with all grinding equipment, tanks, containers, storage systems, mixing equipment, augers, conveyors, belts, pipes, material transfer systems, and related fixtures and/or equipment together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems, and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired. All fruit storage, handling, and processing systems, facilities, and equipment, including, but not limited to: cooling equipment, scrubbers, compressors, condensers, nitrogen generators, computers and computer monitoring equipment, packing line and packing related equipment and fixtures, together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired.
Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.
Commonly known as: 67138 40th Ave., Bangor, MI 49013
P.P. 80-707-036-001-11 (Parcel 10); 80-70-036-002-00 (Parcel 27); 80-04-020-013-00 (Parcel 29)
Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be one (1) year from the date of sale.
If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Dated: June 11, 2025
GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000
31802495

(6-13)(7-4)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at one o'clock in the afternoon on 17th day of July, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
The mortgage was made by MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. SIX, a Michigan limited partnership, MITCHELL FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP NO. FIVE, a Michigan limited partnership, DECATUR PROPERTIES, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, GROW BLUE, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, K FARM HOLDINGS, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, THOMAS R. MITCHELL, as TRUSTEE of the THOMAS R. MITCHELL TRUST u/t/a dated August 21, 2000 and K HOG HOLDINGS, LLC a Michigan limited liability company (collectively, "Mortgagor"), to GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA, a federally chartered corporation, having an office at 3515 West Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (the "Mortgagee"), dated July 2, 2019, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, Michigan on July 12, 2019, in Liber 1686, Page 525 (the "Mortgage"). By reason of a default under the conditions of the Mortgage, the Mortgagee elects to declare and hereby declares the entire unpaid amount of the Mortgage due and payable forthwith. Mortgagee is the owner of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage.
As of the date of this Notice there is claimed to be due for principal and interest on the Mortgage the sum of Thirteen Million Thirty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight and 68/1000 Dollars ($13,031,878.68). No suit or proceeding at law has been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof.
The premises covered by the Mortgage are situated in the Village of Decatur, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan, and are described as follows:
PARCEL 19: Lot 8, Block N of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records.
Tax Item No. 80-43-040-456-00
PARCEL 20: Lot 9, Block N of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records.
Tax Item No. 80-43-040-457-00
PARCEL 21: Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block G of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records and formerly described as the following parcels: Parcel A: Commencing at the Northeasterly corner of Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Southerly, along the Easterly line of said Block File Number: 840865 G, 85.92 feet to a point 87 feet Northerly from the Southeasterly corner of said Block; thence Westerly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 99 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 85.92 feet to the Southerly line of Sherwood Street; thence Easterly, on same, to beginning. Parcel B: Commencing at the Northwest corner of Lot 2, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Southerly, along the Westerly line of said lot, 98.92 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 30 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 13 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 3 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, to the Northerly line of said Block G; thence Westerly, on the Northerly line of said Block G, to the place of beginning. Parcel C: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot 1, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records; thence Westerly, on the Southerly line of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 and being the Northerly line of railroad land, 239 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 60 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 71 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 14 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 66 feet; thence Northerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 13 feet; thence Easterly, parallel with the Southerly line of said Block G, 102 feet to the Easterly line of Block G; thence Southerly on same 87 feet to the beginning. ALSO Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1, Block G, said plat; thence Northerly, on the Easterly line of same, 87 feet; thence Easterly, at right angles, 2.7 feet; thence Southerly, parallel with the Easterly line of said Block G, 87 feet; thence Westerly 2.7 feet to beginning. Parcel D: The Northerly 6 rods of Lot 3, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Parcel E: The Northerly 7 rods of Lot 4, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Except Commencing at the Southeasterly corner of the Northerly 7 rods of said Lot 4; thence Northerly 1.10 feet; thence Westerly 41 feet; thence Southerly 1.10 feet; thence Easterly 41 feet to beginning. Parcel F: The Northwesterly 14 feet of the Southeasterly 74 feet of the Southwesterly 30 feet of Lot 3, Block G of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Parcel G: The Southwesterly 25 feet of the Southeasterly 60 feet of Lot 4, Block G, of the Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof, recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31, Van Buren County Records. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-375-00
PARCEL 22: Part of the Railroad grounds of the recorded plat of Decatur, Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, which is South 56 degrees West 590.00 feet from the intersection of the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly right of way line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East 179.00 feet, parallel to the Westerly right of way line of George Street, to the Northerly right of way line of the railroad; thence Southwesterly, along said Northerly right of way line, being along a 740.69 foot radius curve to the left 73.67, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 43 degrees 38 minutes 45 seconds West 73.64 feet; thence along said railroad right of way and a 713.05 foot radius curve to the right 189.27, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South

Continues on page 9

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48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West 188.71 feet; thence South 56 degrees West 108.00 feet along the Northerly right of way line of said railroad; thence North 34 degrees West 69.72 along the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 315.00 feet parallel with the Southerly right of way of Sherwood Street; thence North 34 degrees West 150.00 feet parallel with the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 52.0 feet, along the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-065-20

PARCEL 23: Beginning at a point in the Southerly line of Sherwood Street which is South 56 degrees West a distance of 150.0 feet from the intersection of the Southerly line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly line of George Street; thence South 34 File Number: 840865 degrees East, parallel with the Westerly line of George Street, a distance of 126.0 feet to a point; thence North 56 degrees East, parallel with the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 150.0 feet to a point in the Westerly line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East, along said line of George Street, a distance of 36.38 feet to a point distant 15 feet in a Northwesterly direction from the centerline of a track of railroad formerly of The Michigan Central Railroad Company; thence parallel with said centerline of track the following four courses and distances: South 55 degrees 13 minutes 15 seconds West a distance of 477.76 feet to a point, Southwesterly on a curve to the left having a radius of 740.59 feet the chord of which bears South 48 degrees 00 minutes 22 seconds West for a length of 186.04 feet, the arc distance of 186.53 feet to a point of reverse curve, Southwesterly on a curve to the right, having a radius of 713.05 feet the chord of which bears South 48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West for a length of 188.71 feet, the arc distance of 189.27 feet to a point and South 56 degrees West a distance of 108.0 feet to a point in the Easterly line of Park Street; thence North 34 degrees West, along the Easterly line of Park Street, a distance of 69.72 feet to a point; thence North 56 degrees East, parallel with the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 315.0 feet to a point; thence North 34 degrees West, parallel with the Easterly line of Park Street, a distance of 150.0 feet to a point in the Southerly line of Sherwood Street; thence North 56 degrees East, along the Southerly line of Sherwood Street, a distance of 492.0 feet to the place of beginning. EXCEPT part of the Railroad grounds of the recorded plat of Decatur, Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan, described as: Beginning at a point on the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street which is South 56 degrees West 590.00 feet from the intersection of the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street and the Westerly right of way line of George Street; thence South 34 degrees East 179.00 feet, parallel to the Westerly right of way line of George Street, to the Northerly right of way line of the Railroad; thence Southwesterly, along said Northerly right of way line, being along a 740.69 foot radius curve to the left 73.67 feet, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 43 degrees 38 minutes 45 seconds West 73.64 feet; thence along said Railroad right of way and a 713.05 foot radius curve to the right 189.27 feet, said curve having a long chord bearing and distance of South 48 degrees 23 minutes 45 seconds West 188.71 feet; thence South 56 degrees West 108.0 feet along the Northerly right of way line of said Railroad; thence North 34 degrees West 69.72 feet along the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 315.0 feet parallel with the Southerly right of way of Sherwood Street; thence North 34 degrees West 150.0 feet parallel with the Easterly right of way line of Park Street; thence North 56 degrees East 52.0 feet, along the Southerly right of way line of Sherwood Street, to the point of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-065-10

PARCEL 24: Beginning at the intersection of the Southerly line of Sherwood Street with the Westerly line of George Street, in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County, Michigan according to the 1905 recorded Plat thereof; thence Westerly, along the Southerly line of said Sherwood Street, 150 feet; thence Southerly, parallel to the Westerly line of said George Street, 126 feet; thence Easterly, parallel to the Southerly line of said Sherwood Street, 150 feet to the Westerly line of said George Street; thence Northerly, along the Westerly line of said George Street, 126 feet to the place of beginning, being a part of the West half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 20, Town 4 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof. Tax Item No. 80-43-085-034-00

PARCEL 25: Lots 6, 5 and part of Lot 4, all Block O of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records, described as: Commencing at the Northeasterly corner of Lot 1 of said Block O; thence South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, along the Northwesterly lines of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of said Block O, a distance of 406.00 feet to the point of beginning of the land herein described; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing metal building, 145.41 feet; thence North 56 degrees 07 minutes 24 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northwesterly of and parallel with the Northwesterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 50.08 feet; thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 28.23 feet to the South line of Lot 4 of said Block O; thence measured South 55 degrees 52 minutes 14 seconds West (record=South 55 degrees 54 minutes 25 seconds West) (plat=South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Southeasterly lines of Lots 4, 5 and 6 of said Block O, a measured distance of 375.65 feet (record=375.20 feet) (plat=368.60 feet) to the Southwesterly corner of Lot 6 of said Block O; thence measured North 34 degrees 27 minutes 35 seconds West (record=North 34 degrees 19 minutes 25 seconds West) (plat=North 34 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Southwesterly line of Lot 6 of said Block O, a measured distance of File Number: 840865 174.65 feet (record=172.10 feet) (plat=172.92 feet) to the Northwesterly corner of Lot 6 of said Block O; thence North 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East, along the Northerly lines of Lots 6, 5 and 4 of said Block O, a measured distance of 327.32 feet (record=326.60 feet) (plat=320.00 feet) to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-470-01

PARCEL 26: Lots 1, 2, 3 and part of Lot 4, all Block O of Decatur, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, page 31 of Van Buren County Records, described as: Beginning at the Northeasterly corner of Lot 1 of said Block O; thence South 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West, along the Northwesterly lines of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 of said Block O, a distance of 406.00 feet; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing metal building, 145.41 feet; thence North 56 degrees 07 minutes 24 seconds East, along a line with is 5 feet Northwesterly of and parallel with the Northwesterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 50.08 feet; thence South 33 degrees 48 minutes 00 seconds East, along a line which is 5 feet Northeasterly of and parallel with the Northeasterly wall of an existing concrete block building, 28.23 feet to the South line of Lot 4, said Block O; thence measure North 55 degrees 52 minutes 44 seconds East (record=North 55 degrees 54 minutes 25 seconds East) (plat=North 56 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East) along the Southeasterly lines of Lots 4, 3, 2 and 1, said Block O, a distance of 357.40 feet to the Southeasterly corner of Lot 1, said Block O; thence measured North 34 degrees 22 minutes 25 seconds West (plat=North 34 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West) along the Northeasterly line of Lot 1, said Block O, a measured distance of 173.00 feet (plat=172.92 feet) to the place of beginning. Tax Item No. 80-43-040-469-01

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee, a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all grain handling facilities and equipment, scales, crop dryers, grain storage facilities, elevators, augers, conveyors, power units, fuel storage, electrical controls and testing equipment with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all feed storage and handling systems, feeders, waterers, water handling systems and medication injection systems, manure handling and storing systems, farrowing equipment, pens, swine nursery equipment, ventilating, lighting and heating systems, auxiliary power system, electrical control systems with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grants to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: all irrigation equipment, including but not limited to, pumps, gear heads, power units, water distribution and sprinkler systems, fertilizer and chemical injection systems, electrical systems and controls with replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired, located on and affixed to the above described real estate. This security interest is being given pursuant to the Michigan Uniform Commercial Code to secure the above described items. In case of default, the Mortgagee (Secured Party) shall have all remedies as provided under said code and under the other terms and conditions of this mortgage, and may proceed upon any security liened to it, either concurrently or separately, in any manner it may elect.

Mortgagor hereby further grant to Mortgagee a security interest, as security for the payment of all indebtedness of the Mortgagor to Mortgagee in certain property generally described as: "Fixture language" located on and affixed to the above described real estate. Feed mill together with all grinding equipment, tanks, containers, storage systems, mixing equipment, augers, conveyors, belts, pipes, material transfer systems, and related fixtures and/or equipment together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems, and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired. All fruit storage, handling, and processing systems, facilities, and equipment, including, but not limited to: cooling equipment, scrubbers, compressors, condensers, nitrogen generators, computers and computer monitoring equipment, packing line and packing related equipment and fixtures, together with all parts, tools, attachments, supplies, accessories, and similar equipment required to utilize systems and replacements, additions and similar equipment hereafter acquired.

Together with (a) all the estate, title, interest, and rights of Borrower in the premises and all buildings and improvements of every kind and description now or later placed on the premises; (b) all of the rents, profits, and leases of the premises and the tenements, hereditaments, easements, privileges, and appurtenance with respect to the premises; (c) all goods (including furniture, fixtures, equipment and appliances) and general intangibles now owned or later acquired by Borrower and now or later related to, affixed to, attached to, placed on, or used in any way in connection with the ownership, use, occupancy, or operation of the premises; (d) all of Borrower's rights, title and interest in, to and under all present and future land contracts, sales agreements or option agreements relating to the premises; (e) and all rights to make divisions of the premises that are exempt from the platting requirements of the Michigan Land Division Act, as it is amended.

Commonly known as: 110 East Sherwood Street, Decatur, MI 49045

P.P. 80-43-040-456-00 (Parcel 19); 80-43-040-457-00 (Parcel 20); 80-43-040-375-00 (Parcel 21); 80-43-085-065-20 (parcel 22); 80-43-085-065-10 (Parcel 23); 80-43-085-034-00 (parcel 24); 80-43-040-470-01 (Parcel 25); 80-43-040-469-01 (Parcel 26)

Notice is further given that the length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale.

If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA §600.3278 the Mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the Mortgagee for damaging the premises during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Dated: June 11, 2025

GREENSTONE FARM CREDIT SERVICES, FLCA
Mortgagee
Elisabeth M. Von Eitzen
WARNER NORCROSS + JUDD LLP
150 Ottawa Avenue NW Suite 1500
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2487
(616) 752-2000 32615012

(6-13)(7-4)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: RAYMOND E BIRMELE; ATTY: RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. - RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25MI00397-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Raymond E. Birmele and Diann M. Birmele, Husband and Wife to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Interactive Financial Corp, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated February 13, 2009, and recorded on February 24, 2009, in Liber 1513, Page 735, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was modified by Loan Modification Agreement dated January 13, 2022, and recorded on January 21, 2022, in Liber 1732, Page 133, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated January 11, 2016 and recorded January 14, 2016 in Liber 1630, Page 235, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Two Hundred Ninety-Seven and 27/100 ($175,297.27) including interest at the rate of 3.12500% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Commencing on the East line of Haver Street, at a point 679.00 feet North of the East and West quarter line of Section 15, Town 3 South, Range 16 West, thence North on said Street, 117.50 feet to the South line of Hart Street, thence East on said street 148.50 feet, thence South 117.50 feet, thence West 148.50 feet to beginning Commonly known as: 100 HART ST, HARTFORD, MI 49057 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 12, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00397-1

(06-12)(07-03)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ROBERTA POTHOFF; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 520934F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Wayne R. Pothoff and Roberta J. Pothoff, husband and wife

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

Date of Mortgage: July 1, 2022

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 15, 2022

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $354,601.00

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Mattawan, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Unit 142, Silvergrass, a site condominium, according to the master deed recorded in Liber 1611, Page 233, Van Buren county record, and designated as Van Buren county subdivision plan no. 132, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in the above described master deed and amendments thereto and as disclosed by act 59 of the public acts of 1978, as amended.

Common street address (if any): 25441 Forest Ln, Mattawan, MI 49071-9671

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: June 12, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1563855

(06-12)(07-03)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: JAMES WILKINS; ATTY: SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, P.C. - SCHNEIDERMAN & SHERMAN, PC; 1ST PUB: 6/12/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25-001625-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 10, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): James Wilkins, a single man Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: October 17, 2012 Recorded on October 18, 2012, Liber 1574, on Page 330, and re-recorded via Loan Modification recorded on April 21, 2022 in Liber 1737, on Page 97 Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred One Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Eight and 01/100 Dollars ($101,128.01) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 6 OF GAGE`S ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF; THENCE WEST 132 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 229.02 FEET TO THE NORTH LINE OF BREEDSVILLE ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTH LINE TO THE WEST LINE OF GAGE`S ADDITION; THENCE NORTH TO BEGINNING, THIS PARCEL IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF LOT 6, BLOCK 1, GAGE`S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF LAWRENCE ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SAID POINT BEING DETERMINED BY A SURVEY MADE BY SMITH &, SMITH, INC., REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS IN LAND SURVEYING AS BEING 1110.12 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTH LINE OF SECTION 9, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST; THENCE WEST 8 RODS; THENCE SOUTH TO THE CENTER OF BREEDSVILLE ROAD; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON SAME TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID ADDITION; THENCE NORTH ON SAME TO BEGINNING, BEING A PART OF THE NORTHEAST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 9, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 15 WEST ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY THEREOF. Commonly known as 128 Bangor Rd, Lawrence, MI 49064 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice,

Continues on page 10

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER.
Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

GRANT DALY PAINTING:
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Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

HANDYMAN SERVICE
Frame thru finish, high quality, highly qualified carpenters. Call 269-903-6397.

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HIBOY ELECTRIC BIKE
Excellent condition. Step-thru, fat tires, $725. 269-491-9900. 269-216-3548.

ANTIQUE ENGLISH PUB SIGN TWO-SIDED with words, "Tom and Bedlam" on it; 1960s Maple table and chairs; also 48 inch round table with two leafs; modern desk chairs; sturdy metal shelves, 30 inches high and 42 inches high; old postcards and more. Wittes, 269-668-3574.

• SALES •

GARAGE SALES- WOODHENGE DR, Mattawan, 22118 June 12,13, 9 to 2; 22152, June 13,14, 9 to 4. Something for everyone.

BARN SALE 3 FAMILIES.
THURSDAY ONLY JUNE 12TH 8:00-4:00.
49962 CR 653. 1 MILE NORTH OF RED ARROW.
PAW PAW
COLLECTIBLES, SPORTS MEMORABILIA, ESTATE GLASSWARE, CHRISTMAS & EASTER & HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY. LARGE ANIMAL CARRY CAGE.

• AUCTIONS •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: **6/24/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw:** Cadey Neal, 65; Brooke Collins, 90/109.

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Housing benefit available.
Interested candidates should submit a resume & cover letter to HR, Mayflower Dairy, 588 3 Mile Rd NW, Ste 101, Grand Rapids MI 49544

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SENIOR DISCOUNTS
269-249-8185

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(269) 998-6977

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 9

whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1564121

(06-12)(07-03)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: 7338 HARDISTY LLC; ATTY: ANR - ANR; 1ST PUB: 6/19/2025; ATTY FILE #: (N/A); INSURER: (UNKNOWN

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): 7338 Hardisty LLC Original Mortgagee: Builder Circle Warehouse 1 LLC Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Date of Mortgage: July 3, 2024 Date of Mortgage Recording: July 10, 2024 Amount claimed due on date of notice: $468,107.20 Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in the Township of Decatur, County of Van Buren, and State of Michigan, is described as follows: THE SOUTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 33, TOWN 4 SOUTH, RANGE 14 WEST. Common street address (if any): 94760 40th Street, Decatur, MI 49045 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16). If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. This notice is from a debt collector. Date of notice: June 19, 2025 Mastrantonio & Orlando, LLP 308 N. Cleveland Massillon Road, Suite 200 Akron, OH 44333 330-434-1000

(06-19)(07-10)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: BRYAN BAILEY; ATTY: RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. - RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; 1ST PUB: 6/19/2025; ATTY FILE #: 25MI00402-1; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

FORECLOSURE NOTICE ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 01:00 PM, July 17, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Bryan Bailey, A Married Man to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, its successors, and assigns, Mortgagee, dated March 30, 2020, and recorded on April 3, 2020, in Liber 1697, Page 565, Van Buren County Records, said mortgage was assigned to Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated June 02, 2025 and recorded June 06, 2025 in Liber 1779, Page 748, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Ten Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Six and 24/100 ($110,766.24) including interest at the rate of 4.25000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and are described as: Lot(s) 17, except the East 5 feet wide of said Lot 17, Block 1 of Warrens Addition to Hartford according to the Plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of Plats, Page 7 of Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as: 315 E LINDEN ST, HARTFORD, MI 49057 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: June 19, 2025 Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00402-1

(06-19)(07-10)

NEW PUB -> COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: RYAN STEELE; ATTY: TEAM X; 1ST PUB: 6/19/2025; ATTY FILE #: 524417F01; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on July 24, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Ryan D. Steele aka Ryan Steele and Kimberly Steele husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: September 15, 2017
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 22, 2017
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $98,615.11
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Hartford, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: The South 50 feet of Lot(s) 3 and 4, Block 7 of Freeman Stowe's Addition to the Hartford Village according to the plat thereof recorded in Van Buren County Records, also the North half of Lot 1 Block 2, Map of Stowe's 2nd Addition to the Village of Hartford, according to the recorded plat thereof recorded in Van Buren County Records.
Common street address (if any): 308 S Maple St, Hartford, MI 49057-1225
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: June 19, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1564713

(06-19)(07-10)

VILLAGE OF LAWTON
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 01-2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Village of Lawton Adopts Ordinance No. 01-2025 to Amend the Zoning Ordinance
Lawton, Michigan — June 19, 2025 — The Village Council of the Village of Lawton has adopted Ordinance No. 01-2025, amending the Village's Zoning Ordinance effective July 15, 2025. Highlights of the ordinance include:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Village of Lawton Adopts Revised Zoning Ordinance for Short-Term Rentals
Lawton, MI – 06/19/2025– At its regular meeting on 06/10/2025, the Lawton Village Council adopted Ordinance No. 01-2025, amending the Village Zoning Ordinance to establish comprehensive standards and regulations for short-term rentals (STRs) within the Village of Lawton.

Ordinance 01-2025 introduces a series of important changes to the Zoning Ordinance designed to balance the growing interest in short-term rentals with the need to preserve neighborhood character, ensure public safety, and maintain the quality of life for all residents.

Key provisions of the adopted ordinance include:
- **Permitted Use:** STRs are now a permitted use in select zoning districts with specific regulations.
- **Accessory Use Regulations:** Updated guidelines for residential accessory structures, including limits on size and placement.
- **Design Standards:** STRs must conform to district requirements and be designed to avoid nuisances and ensure compatibility with surrounding properties.
- **Operational Standards:** Restrictions on rental duration, occupancy, parking requirements, and the prohibition of events and parties.
- **Definition Clarification:** The ordinance includes definitions for "short-term rental" and "zoning compliance determination" to provide clarity for enforcement and compliance.

A complete copy of Ordinance 01-2025 is available online at www.lawtonmi.org or at the Village Hall.
For more information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office at (269) 624-6407.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MATTAWAN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL

Mattawan Consolidated School is seeking bid proposals for 53 assorted band instruments and equipment. Bid information is now available on the district website at mattawanschools.org under Budget Transparency – Finance & Human Resources – Bids & Requests.

Sealed bids only & clearly labeled as Band Equipment must be received by (sent or in-person delivery) Friday, June 27th at 1:00 PM EST at Mattawan Consolidated School - Central Administration Office - 56720 Murray St. Mattawan, MI 49071 (Attn: Pam Stermer, CFO).

A public bid opening will follow in the Board Room. Late bids will not be considered. A signed and notarized Familial Disclosure Form must be submitted with bids along with other required affidavits.

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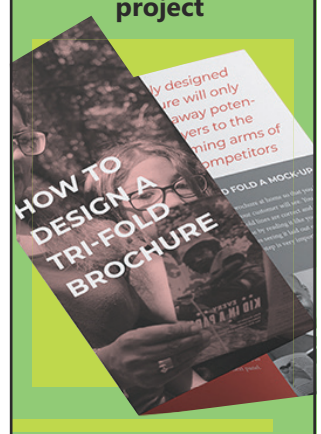

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VILLAGE OF LAWTON
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 02-2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 19, 2025

Village of Lawton Adopts Ordinance No. 02-2025 to Regulate Rental and Short-Term Rental Properties

Lawton, MI — The Village Council of Lawton has officially adopted Ordinance No. 02-2025, creating new Chapters 155 and 156 of the Lawton Village Code. This ordinance establishes comprehensive registration and licensing requirements for both long-term rental properties and short-term rentals to help protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Under **Chapter 155,** titled Rental Property Licensing, property owners must register and obtain licenses for rental properties within the Village. The ordinance mandates that:
- All **rental properties must be registered** with the Village under Section 155.3.
- The **registration requirements under Section 155.3(A)** now take effect **January 1, 2026,** allowing more time for property owners to come into compliance.
- All **rental properties must be licensed** under Section 155.4 unless otherwise exempted.
- The **licensing requirements under Section 155.4(A)** will now take effect **January 1, 2027,** giving owners additional time to meet inspection and compliance standards.

Under **Chapter 156,** titled Short-Term Rental Licensing, the Village introduces a licensing system for properties rented for periods of 28 days or less. The ordinance establishes two classes of licenses based on rental frequency and intensity, along with operational, safety, and inspection requirements.

A notable amendment under Section **156.4(G)** provides that, **unless revoked, a license is now valid for three years** from the date of issuance, extending the previous two-year term to reduce the administrative burden on compliant property owners.
The Village of Lawton encourages all current and prospective rental property owners to review the full ordinance to ensure they understand the new regulations, timelines, and compliance expectations.

A complete copy of **Ordinance No. 02-2025** is available at **www.lawtonmi.org** or by visiting the Village Office.
For questions or additional information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office at (269) 624-6407.

VILLAGE OF LAWTON
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 03-2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Village of Lawton Adopts Ordinance No. 03-2025 to Amend the Zoning Ordinance
Lawton, Michigan — June 19, 2025 — The Village Council of the Village of Lawton has adopted **Ordinance No. 03-2025**, which amends the Village's Zoning Ordinance, effective **July 15, 2025.** These changes reflect the Village's continued commitment to responsible development, code compliance, and community standards.
Key Amendments Include:
- **Wireless Communications Facilities (New Section 5.26):** New regulations now govern wireless communication towers, including a prohibition on speculative towers, preference for co-location, height and setback requirements, screening standards, and mandatory compliance with FAA and FCC rules.
- **Wind and Solar Energy Standards (Amended Section 5.25):** Updates clarify placement and visibility rules for solar panels and wind turbines, including administrative approval for turbines under 40 feet and Special Land Use review for those between 40–60 feet.
- **Fee and Escrow Authority (Section 11.13):** The Village Council may adopt a fee schedule by resolution to recover costs for land use applications, site plan reviews, enforcement actions, and associated professional services.
- **Violation Enforcement and Penalties (Sections 11.14–11.17):** A structured enforcement process is now in place, including written notices of violation, cease-and-desist orders, revocation of approvals, and court actions. Violators may be fined up to $500 or jailed for up to 90 days. Ordinance violations are also declared nuisances subject to abatement.
- **Transfer of Ownership (New Section 11.18):** Property owners must notify the Village in writing within 10 days of transferring ownership of a property that has been cited for violations. This notice must include the new owner's name, address, and phone number, along with the effective date of transfer. The Village will issue a new Notice of Violation to the incoming owner or responsible party.

These updates are designed to promote clarity, accountability, and compliance throughout the Village's zoning and land use framework.
A complete copy of **Ordinance No. 03-2025** is available online at **www.lawtonmi.org** or at the Village Office during regular business hours.
For additional information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office at (269) 624-6407.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN

ORDINANCE NO. 0527-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF FOOD TRUCKS, AND THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES, OR APPROVALS FOR THE USE OF FOOD TRUCKS

THE VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Purpose
The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a policy to manage mobile food businesses in the Village of Mattawan (sometimes referred to as the "Village"); to establish a framework to permit and regulate mobile food service providers in the Village; to reduce vehicular and pedestrian traffic congestion; to promote the safe use of streets and sidewalks; and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of the Village of Mattawan.

Section 2. Mobile Food Service Provider Defined
For this Ordinance, unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning, "Mobile Food Service Provider" or "Mobile Food Vehicle" or "Food Truck" means a motorized vehicle which, upon the issuance of a permit by the Village through its designated official, in conformance with the regulations under this Ordinance and state law, may temporarily park upon property in the Village to engage in the preparation, service, sale, or distribution of ready to eat food for individual portion service to the general public directly from the vehicle. A Mobile Food Service Provider or Mobile Food Vehicle are sometimes collectively referred to as a "Mobile Food Provider" or "Food Truck". A Mobile Food Vehicle shall also include a trailer pulled by a motorized vehicle engaged in the preparation, service, sale or distribution of ready-to-eat food for individual portion service to the general public from the trailer. It shall include cookers, grills, smokers or other similar apparatuses contained within or on the trailer. A Mobile Food Provider includes vehicles and trailers which prepare food for sale. Vendors that sell exclusively prepackaged food items such as ice cream trucks. Do not qualify under this Ordinance.

Section 3. Special Event or School Function
For the purposes of this Ordinance, unless the context indicates or requires a different meaning, a "Special Event" means a community sponsored type event in which the sponsor (the "Sponsor") of the event has obtained permission from the Village to hold such an event and a "School Function" means an event sponsored by a school (the "School").

Section 4. Permit Requirements
Except as may otherwise be allowed by this Ordinance, no Mobile Food Provider may engage in the preparation, service, sale, or distribution of food in the Village on public or private property without first obtaining a permit from the Village. The application fee shall be set from time to time by resolution of the Mattawan Village Council. All fees must be paid to the Village Treasurer at the time the application is submitted. All permits must be available on site for inspection upon request by the Village through its designated representative or law enforcement officer.

Section 5. Number of Permits, Duration and Transferability
A. Mobile Food Provider permits shall be issued by the Village. The number of permits to be issued may be limited by a resolution of the Mattawan Village Council. Mobile Food Provider permits shall only be for the length of the permit is issued 1 month, 3 months, and 6 months.
B. Transferability. Each Mobile Food Provider permit is valid only for each individual vehicle or trailer operated by a Mobile Food Provider and shall not be transferred among vehicles or trailers. Permits may not be transferred from the Food Provider to any other entity.

Section 6. Insurance
All Mobile Food Providers who obtain a permit pursuant to Section 4 must obtain and maintain a policy of liability insurance by a company licensed to do business in the State of Michigan and approved by the Village. Insurance coverage must be in the minimum amount of $1,000,000.00 for personal injury and property damage arising out of the permitted operation, including operation by employees, agents, or independent contractors. Proof of insurance must be provided to the Village before a permit can be granted and thereafter upon request. The insurance policy shall name the Village of Mattawan, its officers, employees, and agents as additional insureds and shall provide that the insurance be primary to any other potential coverage. The policy shall provide a minimum of 30 days prior written notice of revocation, cancellation, or amendment to the Village. All Mobile Food Providers agree to hold harmless and protect the Village of Mattawan and its officers, employees, and agents from any liability, claims, costs, expenses, or attorney fees arising out of the permitted operation provided by this ordinance.

Section 7. Applications
An Application of a person desiring to operate a Mobile Food Provider permit under Section 4 shall provide a written application for such a permit to the Village Office. Applications for a Mobile Food Provider permit shall be on forms provided by the Village (if available) or by written request (if no applications are available) and shall include all of the following:
A. Name, signature, phone number, email contact, and business address of the applicant.
B. Information on the Mobile Food Vehicle including the VIN, year, make and model and its dimensions.
C. Proposed date, hours, and areas of operation for each specific event.
D. A sketch plan showing the location at which the Vehicle shall be used for each specific event and location.
E. Detailed plans for power access, water supply, waste disposal and wastewater disposal.
F. Copies of all necessary licenses and permits issued by the Van Buren County Health Department and/or the State of Michigan. Mobile Food Facility Permit, Public Health Permit, Food Seller's Permit, Employee Health Permit (also known as a Food Handlers License
G. A Certificate of Insurance evidencing coverage consistent with this Ordinance.
H. A signed statement or acknowledgment that the permit holder shall hold harmless the Village, its employees, officers, and agents and shall indemnify the Village, its employees, officers and agents for any claim based on the use of the Mobile Food Provider.
I. Copy of the applicant's state-issued Michigan sales tax license.
J. Any food truck must have a sponsoring entity located within the village limits. Sponsoring entities may include but are not limited to business, schools, churches, special event hosts, community-based organizations and residents. A food truck must be set up in front of or on the property of the sponsoring entity. (Moved here from 12 L.)
K. Pre-packaged food items would fall under the Hawkers, Peddlers, and Solicitors Ordinance. (Ice cream trucks)

Section 8. Regulations

A. Section 4 Permits. All of the following regulations must be followed at all times by any Mobile Food Provider who obtains a permit pursuant to Section 4 and/or who operates in the Village:
1. Mobile Food Providers may conduct business only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. unless the Village provides written permission to conduct business during other hours. Cleanup Requirement: All equipment and waste must be cleaned up and removed by the end of the business day.
a. Mobile food units shall not be allowed to park overnight.
2. A valid permit must be presented promptly for inspection or examination when requested by the Village, or law enforcement officer. The failure to present a valid permit will require that the Mobile Food Provider cease its operations until a permit can be provided.
3. A Mobile Food Provider shall not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. If directed by the Village's representative or law enforcement officer, the Mobile Food Provider shall promptly relocate.
4. The operator of a Mobile Food Provider shall direct exhaust away from the service side of the vehicle.
5. A Mobile Food Provider shall only serve customers while parked.
6. A Mobile Food Provider shall serve customers only on the curb, lawn, or sidewalk side of the Mobile Food Service Vehicle while in an authorized parking space.
7. No Mobile Food Service Vehicle shall be in motion while food preparation devices are in use (e.g., fryers, stoves, faucets, etc.).
8. A Mobile Food Provider shall be completely self-contained and is prohibited from utilizing any municipally owned utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical outlets, hydrants, or sewers.
9. No Mobile Food Service Vehicle shall be left unattended while food is in the vehicle or the food preparation devices are in use (e.g., fryers, stoves, faucets, etc.).
10. A Mobile Food Provider shall keep the area in which it operates free of trash, clean, and tidy. The Mobile Food Provider shall place at least one trash receptacle immediately outside the Mobile Food Service Vehicle, in plain sight at all times. The receptacle shall not overflow and shall be emptied at an appropriate trash collection location as needed. No liquid waste of any kind may be emptied into municipal storm or sanitary sewers.
11. Mobile Food Providers shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations in licensing or permit requirements including, but not limited to, those issued by Van Buren County, the Van Buren County Health Department or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development or any successor agency, the Michigan Secretary of State, and any other agency with licensing or regulatory jurisdiction over the Mobile Food Provider, a Mobile Food Service Vehicle or the services provided by a food vendor.
12. No Mobile Food Provider shall make or cause to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise, including by the use of a generator. Excess noise shall be considered noise of more than 75 decibels measured at 25 feet of the originating source. The operation of all Mobile Food Vehicles shall meet any noise ordinance imposed by the Village.
13. All signage for the Mobile Food Provider must only appear directly on the Mobile Food Service Vehicle. No additional signage is permitted.
14. There shall be no flashing, blinking or ultra-bright lights allowed on Mobile Food Service Vehicles or related signage. All exterior lights over 60 watts shall contain opaque hood shields directing illumination downward.No lines,
15. wires, cables, or other hazards may be extended across any street, alley, or sidewalk in the Village. Allowed with approved ADA covers over them to protect from trips and falls, that must be approved prior to operation.
16. Mobile Food Providers permitted under this Ordinance may operate on private or publicly owned property (e.g., open spaces, parks, streets, and rights-of-way) in accordance with the terms of their permit.
17. Any Mobile Food Provider desiring to locate in a public park shall comply with all Village regulations for parks and recreational spaces.
18. Mobile Food Vehicles, when parked on public streets, shall be parked in conformance with all applicable parking restrictions, and shall not hinder the lawful parking or operation of other vehicles.Mobile Food Providers shall not be located twenty-five (25) feet of a permanent business with a food license during that business' normal hours of operation, unless waived by the owner of the business in the form of a writing provided by the business to the Village.
19. Mobile Food Providers shall not operate outside of the locations designated by this Ordinance, or in areas not authorized under the required permit.
20. No Mobile Food Provider shall operate within five hundred (500) feet of any fair, festival, civic event, or other special event that is licensed or sanctioned by the Village, unless the Mobile Food Provider has obtained in writing the permission of the event sponsor.
21. No Mobile Food Provider shall operate within sixty (60) feet of any intersection.
22. Sponsoring entities may block off no more than two public parking spaces no earlier than two hours prior to the start of the event.

B. Special Events and School Functions. Mobile Food Providers at a School Function or Special Event shall adhere to the rules and requirements described in this Ordinance, as well as additional rules and requirements adopted by the sponsor of the special event or the school.

Section 9. Impoundment
Any equipment associated with the Mobile Food Vehicle that is not in compliance with this Ordinance and is left on public property may be impounded at the owner's sole expense.

Section 10. Written Complaints
If a written complaint is filed with the Village alleging that a Mobile Food Provider or a Mobile Food Vehicle permitted pursuant to Section 4 has violated the provisions of this ordinance, the Village shall promptly send a copy of the written complaint and a notice of investigation to the Mobile Food Provider at the address provided in the permit application. If the Village and/or a law enforcement officer, after reviewing all materials, finds the complaint to be supported by a preponderance of the evidence, the complaint shall be certified. A certified complaint may give rise to revocation, suspension, or non-renewal.

Section 11. Revocation and Appeal
Once a permit has been issued under Section 4, it may be revoked, suspended, or not renewed by the Village for failure to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or any rules or regulations promulgated by the Village. The Village shall revoke the permit of any Mobile Food Provider engaged in mobile food vending who intentionally fails to meet any requirement of this Ordinance or intentionally violates any other federal, state, or local law, ordinance, or regulation; makes a false statement on their application; or conducts their business in a manner adverse to the public health, safety or welfare of the Village and its residents. Immediately upon revocation, the Village shall provide written notice to the permit holder by certified mail to the address indicated on the application. The permit shall become immediately null and void upon revocation. If a permit is denied or revoked by the Village or if a written complaint is certified pursuant to this Ordinance, the applicant or permit holder may appeal to the Village Council in writing, at which point the Village Council shall make a written determination on the validity of the denial, revocation or complaint after reviewing all evidence related to the appeal. The Village Council shall consider whether the decision is supported by a preponderance of the evidence and, if so, it shall be sustained. The applicant or permit holder may appeal the decision of the Village Council to a court of competent jurisdiction in Van Buren County, Michigan.

Section 12. Other Permits
A permit obtained under this Section 4 or the right to operate under Section 2 shall not relieve any Mobile Food Provider of its responsibility for obtaining any other permit or license or authorization required by any other ordinance, statute, law or administrative rule promulgated by any entity with jurisdiction over the location or conduct considered within this Ordinance.

Section 13. Safety Requirements
The operator of a food truck or food trailer is required to adhere to the following requirements in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance and state law for food service:
a. Obtain permits from the Mattawan Fire Department before any permit for use is issued.
b. There shall be no public seating within the food truck or food trailer.
c. A food truck or food trailer in use shall ensure that fire department vehicular access is provided for fire lanes and access roads.
d. A food truck or food trailer in use shall provide clearance for the fire department to access nearby fire hydrants (4 ft radios from center) and access fire department connections (10 ft clear distance from the FDC (Fire Department Connection)
e. A food truck or trailer in use that utilizes combustible media for cooking shall provide an approved fire extinguishing system.
f. A food truck or food trailer in use shall install portable fire extinguishers in kitchen cooking areas in accordance with NFPA 10.
g. A cooking appliance in a food truck or food trailer that produces grease-laden vapors shall be protected by listed fire-extinguishing equipment.
h.
i. A food truck or food trailer in use shall ensure that all workers present are trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers and extinguishing systems.
j. All employees of a food truck or food trailer in use shall know the proper method for shutting off fuel sources; the proper procedure for notifying the local fire department; and the proper procedure for how to perform simple leak tests on gas connections.
k. A food truck or food trailer in use shall install and provide wheel chocks to prevent mobile and temporary cooking units from moving.
l. A food truck or food trailer operator shall keep and maintain all record-keeping documents in one location on the mobile cooking operation and shall make such records available to the Mattawan Fire Department.

Section 14. Operational Safety Requirements.
In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare and in addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or food trailer operator of a food truck or food trailer in use in the Village shall adhere by to following operational safety requirements:
a. The operator shall not leave cooking equipment unattended while it is still hot.
b. The operator shall only operate or permit the operation of cooking equipment only when all windows, service hatches, and ventilation sources are fully opened unless weather conditions require the retaining of interior heat.
c. The operator shall ensure that all gas supply piping valves and gas container valves are fully closed when the equipment is not in use.
d. The operator shall ensure that all cooking equipment, including the cooking ventilation system, is regularly cleaned and grease removed.
e. All mobile or temporary cooking operations shall be separated from other mobile or temporary cooking operations by a clear space distance of 10 ft.
f. The address of the current operational location for all food trucks or food trailers in use in the Village shall be posted and accessible to all employees.

Section 15. Fuel and Power Source Regulations
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village shall be required to adhere to the following regulations regarding the cooking fuel and power source(s):
a. Prior to commencing cooking, the operator shall verify that fuel tanks are filled to the capacity needed for uninterrupted operation during normal operating hours.
b. Refueling shall only be permitted during non-operating hours.
c. Any engine-driven source of power shall be separated from the public by barriers, such as physical guards, fencing, or enclosures.
d. Any engine-driven source of power shall be turned off and completely shut down prior to refueling from a portable container.
e. Prior to refueling from a portable container, the operator shall verify that surfaces of engine-driven source of power are cool to the touch.
f. An operator shall ensure that all electrical appliances, fixtures, equipment, and wiring comply with the NFPA 70®.
g. An operator shall ensure that exhaust from engine-driven sources of power comply with the following:
i. The source of exhaust shall be located at least 10 ft in all directions from openings and air intakes.
ii. The source of exhaust shall be located at least 10 ft from every means of egress.
iii. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from all buildings.
iv. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from all other cooking vehicles and operations.
v. The source of exhaust shall be directed away from the public.

Section 16. Propane System Integrity
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village which utilizes propane for cooking fuel shall adhere to the following regulations regarding the propane system integrity prior to placing such unit in use in the Village:
tor shall ensure that the main shutoff valve on all gas containers is readily accessible at all times.
f. The operator shall ensure that portable gas containers are in the upright position and secured to prevent tipping over.
g. The operator shall perform leak testing on all new gas connections of the gas system.
h. The operator shall perform leak testing on all gas connections affected by replacement of an exchangeable container.
i. The operator shall ensure that where a gas detection system is installed, that it has been tested in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
j. The operator shall document all leak testing and shall make documentation available for review by the authorized official.
k. The operator shall ensure that on gas system piping, a flexible connector is installed between the regulator outlet and the fixed piping system.

Section 17. Solid Fuel Regulations
In addition to the other requirements of this Ordinance, a food truck or trailer owner or operator of a food truck or trailer in use in the Village which utilizes solid fuel (wood, charcoal, or other fuel) for cooking shall adhere to the following additional regulations prior to placing such unit in use in the Village:
a. Such fuel shall not be stored above any heat-producing appliance or vent.
b. Such fuel shall not be stored closer than 3 ft to any cooking appliance.
c. Such fuel is not stored near any combustible flammable liquids, ignition sources, chemicals, and food supplies and packaged goods.
d. Such fuel is not stored in the path of the ash removal or near removed ashes.
e. Ash, cinders, and other fire debris shall be removed from the firebox at regular intervals and at least once a day.
f. Removed ashes, cinders, and other removed fire debris must be placed in a closed, metal container located at least 3 feet from any cooking appliance.

Section 18. Validity and Severability
Should any portion of this Ordinance be found invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed as affecting the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 19. Repealer Clause
Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith arc hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 20. Violation
A violation of this ordinance shall be a municipal civil infraction and, shall be punishable by a fine of $250 for any portion of a day in which the violation occurs. In addition, all applicants agree that a violation of this ordinance creates a public nuisance that the Village shall be entitled to enforce by seeking injunctive relief or any other remedy allowed by law.

Section 21. Effective Date
This ordinance shall become effective upon publication.

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Jolie Storm-Artis, Clerk of the Village of Mattawan, certify that at a regular meeting of the Village Council held on May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., at the Mattawan Village Hall, at which the following members were present:
Begeman, Cole, McLean, Smith, Streeter, Stuut
The Council enacted Ordinance # 0527-2025, to become effective May 27, 2025, and to be published pursuant to the provisions of the Village Charter.
6 Ayes
0 Nays
0 Abstentions

500 gather for No Kings march in Paw Paw

More than 500 protesters peacefully joined the nationwide No Kings march Saturday in downtown Paw Paw. Organized by Indivisible Paw Paw, the Day of Defiance protest was one of several in Southwest Michigan and among 70 held across Michigan.

There were more than 2,100 No Kings protests sponsored by Indivisible nationwide on Saturday held in a unified show of support against the authoritarian politics of the Trump administration and the proposed multiple budget cuts to many of the country's social service programs. The mass protest was also in opposition to President Trump's lavish $45 million parade in Washington, D.C. on Saturday honoring 250 years of the United State Army. Saturday was also President Trump 79th birthday.

Over $500 was collected for the Bangor Summer Migrant Program's school pantry/clothes closet that serves area summer migrant families and students. Through generous donations collected during the local group's events, more than $1,600 has been given to food pantries in Southwest Michigan.

Indivisible Paw Paw, a chapter of the national Indivisible organization, is a nonpartisan group committed to using nonviolent actions to foster change.

City of Hartford takes steps to rebuild police department

HARTFORD - The City of Hartford Police Department has taken proactive steps to rebuild and regain the effectiveness of its law enforcement operations, ensuring the safety and security of Hartford residents and all those who visit the city, according to a press release from the City of Hartford Police Department.

Over the past five months, the City of Hartford Police Department has hired Brian Matthews as the Administrative Chief of Police. Chief Matthews brings over 27 years of law enforcement experience to the city. He is working to rebuild the agency from its foundation and

once again become an agency that police officers want to work for. "The rebuilding will take time, but significant progress is being made," said Chief Matthews.

The City of Hartford Police Department has made immediate changes to its law enforcement family, according to Chief Matthews.

This includes promoting Shawn Poole to the position of sergeant. In addition, the department has hired two seasoned police officers, Matthew Orvis and Marcus Hamre, to full-time status. "All the police staff are working diligently to provide the best public safety to the City of Hartford," said Chief Matthews.

The City of Hartford Police Department is currently updating its technology, equipment, training, and uniforms to better serve the residents of Hartford in the changing law enforcement environment. "This not only leads to more effective law enforcement operations but also ensures the growth and development of its staff members. This is vital to rebuild the relationships between the community and the police department," said Chief Matthews.

The Hartford Police Department is still actively seeking one more full-time staff member and one part-time member to join the team. "We are currently reviewing applications to find our next team member and are still accepting applications and resumes," said Chief Matthews. Anyone interested in law enforcement can obtain an application from the City of Hartford or contact Chief Matthews with any questions.

"The City of Hartford Police Department would like to thank our law enforcement partners, including the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, the Michigan State Police, and the Pokagon Band Tribal Police Department, for their assistance during our transition phase. We will continue to work together to bring safety and an excellent quality of life to the City of Hartford. We also want to thank the residents of the City of Hartford for their support and encourage them to contact the police department with any questions or concerns they may have," said Chief Matthews.

Hartford Mayor Rick Hall said, "The city manager, the commissioners, and I heard loud and clear that the citizens of the City of Hartford want a small-town police department that fosters good relationships with its citizens. That is precisely what Chief Matthews is creating as the head of the police department."

He continued, "The integrity of a police department is measured not by its power, but by its unwavering commitment to justice, accountability, and the trust of the community it serves. With Matthews' extensive experience in the police force, he has not only brought a great deal of integrity to the department but has also attracted highly qualified individuals with many years of work experience in the industry."

Lakeview Foundation presents healthcare scholarships to area students

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – The Lakeview Foundation has been assisting eastern Van Buren County students entering the health care field for many years. Over the past 10 years, the foundation has awarded over $1.6 million in scholarships to area students.

This year's scholarship recipients include:

Madelyn Ameling – Will attend the University of Michigan this fall to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

Amanda Aumaugher – Plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College to pursue studies to become a nurse or doctor.

Asha Bahm – Will attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College to pursue a career as a dental hygienist.

Daniel Barnas – Currently attending Michigan State University in pre-med. Barnas has shadowed doctors in different specialties.

Vanessa Booy – Currently attending Michigan State University in medical laboratory science. In June, she will begin her clinical practicum portion of the degree.

Ella Boris – Will attend Michigan State University and hopes to attend dental school following graduation from MSU.

Yasmin Chavez – Will attend Western Michigan University to pursue a career as a dentist.

Anna Chopp - Will begin her second semester of the nursing program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Aspires to become a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant.

Megan Cox – Has been accepted at Trine University to begin her studies to pursue a career as a physical therapist.

Makenna Crafts – Will study biology at Michigan State University this fall and pursue a pre-dental track.

Preston Criger – Will begin his studies at Grand Valley State University to pursue a career to become a physical therapist.

Hayden Dahlinger – Will attend Trine University to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in biology.

Mikayla Dierickx - Will attend the University of Michigan or St. Mary's College, Notre Dame to major in biology and attend medical school.

Vanessa Donovan - Currently in her third semester as a nursing student at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Brynn Flanders – Seeks to pursue a degree in cardiovascular sonography and will begin her studies this fall at Grand Valley State University.

Austn Garcia - Plans to study exercise science and rehabilitation at Minot State University, North Dakota.

Corinne Hiler – Will attend Northwood University this fall to pursue a degree in healthcare management.

Hailey Holland – Seeks to pursue a degree in nursing and has begun her studies at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

Aline Hussein - Plans to study medicine at the University of Michigan.

Brody Johnson - Has been accepted into the Direct Admit Nursing Program at Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids. Aspires to become a nurse.

Isabel Marfia - Will attend Western Michigan University to pursue a nursing degree.

Barron Marinich – Plans to attend Kalamazoo Valley Community College, then Western Michigan University to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology. He seeks a career as a physician's assistant.

Nicholas Maxwell - Has been attending Western Michigan University. Seeks to pursue a degree in psychology.

Madelyn Miller - An Early Middle College student, she will have her associate's degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She will continue her studies at Ferris State University.

Chloie Mollitor - Will attend Western Michigan University in the fall to pursue a career as a pediatric occupational therapist.

Hannah Northrup – Will attend Grand Valley State University this fall.

Lauren Pernie - Seeks to become a medical doctor and will begin her studies at the University of Cincinnati.

Brooklyn Remelts – Will attend Western Michigan University this fall to pursue a degree as a nurse specializing in oncology.

Emily Rivas – Wants to attend Lake Michigan College to study for a career in psychology.

Kyla Solis – Seeks to pursue a degree in nursing and plans to attend Lake Michigan College in the fall.

Jackson Stewart - Is currently attending the University of Wisconsin in biomedical engineering.

Emily Stinson – Currently works as a phlebotomist in Paw Paw. Seeks to continue her studies at Lake Michigan College to earn an associate's degree in medical assisting.

Angelina Villanueva-Estrada – Will begin her studies at Lake Michigan College. She seeks a career in the healthcare field as a nurse and eventually become a neurologist.

Jacob Vrba - Will begin his studies at eh University of Michigan Ann Arbor in biochemistry.

Alaina Watson -Has been dual enrolled at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. She will attend Hope College to pursue a degree in psychology.

Madison Whitman - Has been dual enrolled at Southwestern Michigan College to pursue a career as a nurse practitioner specializing in either emergency care or pediatrics. She will attend Grand Valley State University this fall.

Madison Winkel – Will begin her studies at Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

To be eligible for a scholarship a student must be a graduate from an eastern Van Buren County high school or live in eastern Van Buren County; maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better, show financial need; and be accepted as a nursing or health care student to a college or university.

To apply, scholarship applicants must fill out the Lakeview Foundation scholarship application found online at LakeviewFoundationmi.org; provide a high school transcript if they are a senior in high school or a current college transcript if they are a college student; provide an essay explaining his/her reason for pursuing a health-care career, explain his/her financial need and tell how they plan to use the degree to give back to the community; provide one written academic reference; provide one written personal reference; and provide the acceptance letter from the community college, college or university they plan to attend.

The Lakeview Foundation is made up of local community leaders who are committed to improving the health and health care of the people and communities in the area as well as helping students who are entering the health care field with the increasing cost of higher education. The foundation hosts an annual fundraiser - a golf outing in August. This event is supported by many local individuals who share the goals of the board members.

Also, the Lakeview Foundation runs the Community Thrift Shop, Paw Paw. The Thrift Shop accepts donations from individuals and provides a low-cost retail outlet for area residents. "We are very grateful to all the volunteers who assist us in operating the Community Thrift Shop," said Pam Gehl, a board member. "Our community has been very supportive of our efforts and each volunteer has helped many students continue with their education and be successful. We are very grateful to the generous members of the community who assist us in raising the funds necessary for these scholarships," said Mary Ann Middaugh, Lakeview Foundation vice president.

Lakeview Foundation Board members include Kirk Richardson, President; John H. Tapper and Mary Ann Middaugh, co-chairs; Eric Larcinese, Secretary; Rodney Dragicevich, Treasurer; Pam Gehl; Molly Petersen; Kelly Page; Terry Morrow; Dr. Matt Dommer, Eva Dommer and Dave Bogan.

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Artist exhibit and reception at VBDL Lawrence Branch Library

LAWRENCE - Artist Ted Petersen will be at Van Buren District Library (VBDL) Lawrence Library on Tuesday, June 24, for a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. His work will be on display through July 25. The public is invited to view his work anytime the library is open.

All are welcome to meet the artist. Refreshments will be served.

Hours for the Lawrence Community Branch Library, 212 N. Paw Paw St., Lawrence, are Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For information about this or any other program, call (269) 674-3200.

Van Buren District Library is headquartered in Decatur with branches in Bangor, Bloomingdale, Covert, Decatur, Gobles, Lawrence and Mattawan.

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